



International Association of Auto Theft Investigators

Australasian Branch

ABN 72 348 221 762

27 January 2010

Branch Member
International Association of Auto Theft Investigators
Australasian Branch

Dear Member,

RE: Amendments to the Constitution of IAATI Australasian Branch

The Executive Committee of the Australasian Branch of IAATI wishes to advise members that it has conducted a review of the Branch Constitution and identified the need to address the language and the introduction of a third Vice President to the Executive Committee.

Language: There are some areas of language in the constitution that were in need of correction in terms of more correct terminology and clearer language in some sections. The corrections are highlighted in **red type** with original wording in **yellow**.

Third Vice President: The Executive Committee identified that with the increase of branch membership, now 330 members, there is a need for an additional Branch Vice President. It is envisaged that the roles of the Vice Presidents will focus more on specific functions to assist the President, namely to enhance and promote the Branch in areas such as, attracting seminar sponsors, exhibitors and presenters, increasing membership and liaison with industry both private and government.

I encourage you to provide feedback and suggestions on these proposals as we all have a role in promoting and supporting our IAATI Branch.

The amendments to the constitution will be tabled for consideration by the members at the 2010 Annual General Meeting at 4:00pm on Sunday 28 February 2010 at the Holiday Inn, Roma Street, Brisbane, Queensland, during the 17th Annual Training Seminar.

Should you wish to provide feedback, please don't hesitate to contact me directly telephone 0418 791 053, or email mbenedick@iaatiaus.org

Yours faithfully,

Mark Bennedick
Branch President
Australasian Branch
International Association of Auto Theft Investigators

T 07 3808 2651
M 0418 791 053
E mbenedick@iaati.org

International Association of Auto Theft Investigators

Australasian Branch

Constitution

(Incorporating amendments from SGM 4/7/2001)

Article 1: Name and Aims

Section 1: Name.

The organisation will be known as the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators - Australasian Branch, and is hereinafter referred to as the "Branch". The name of the Branch shall be used publicly by any member other than by the use of the membership card for identification purposes without the express written permission of the Committee. This shall not restrict the officers, agents or appointees of the Branch from using the Branch name to carry on duties of their office. No member of the Branch may act in the name of the Branch to endorse any product or service, nor shall the Branch's logo be used in any advertisement of any product or service without prior written approval of the Committee.

Amendment 1

Section 1: Name.

The organisation will be known as the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators - Australasian Branch, and is hereinafter referred to as "the Branch". The name of the Branch shall **not** be used publicly by any member other than by the use of the membership card for identification purposes without the express written permission of the Committee. This shall not restrict the officers, agents or appointees of the Branch from using the Branch name to carry on duties of their office. No member of the Branch may act in the name of the Branch to endorse any product or service, nor shall the Branch's logo be used **to suggest endorsement** in any advertisement of any product or service **or used in any way other than to indicate membership** without prior written approval of the **Branch Committee of Management**.

Section 2: Aim.

The purposes of the Branch shall be

- a) To unite for mutual benefit those public officials and private persons engaged in the prevention, detection or investigation of vehicle theft and its associated crimes.
- b) To provide for the exchange of technical information and developments.
- c) To cooperate with any other individual, agency or association to further vehicle theft prevention or investigation.
- d) To encourage high professional standards of conduct among members and other theft investigators.

Amendment 2

Section 2: Aim.

The purposes of the Branch shall be

- a) To unite for mutual benefit those public officials and private persons engaged in the reduction, prevention, detection, enforcement, education, training or investigation of vehicle theft and its associated crimes.
- b) To provide for the exchange of technical information and developments.
- c) To cooperate with any other individual, agency or association to further vehicle theft reduction, prevention, detection, enforcement, education, training or investigation.
- d) To encourage high professional standards of conduct among members and other theft investigators.

Section 3: Ethics and Conduct.

The International Association of Auto Theft Investigators, Australasian Branch (IAATI) is dedicated to the thorough investigation, prevention and reduction of motor vehicle theft and its associated crimes governed by the highest standard of ethical conduct.

Given our commitment to professional and ethical standards within our profession IAATI adopts the following Code of Ethics.

Amendment 3

Section 3: Ethics and Conduct.

The ~~International Association of Auto Theft Investigators, Australasian~~ Branch (IAATI) is dedicated to the thorough investigation, prevention and reduction of motor vehicle theft and its associated crimes governed by the highest standard of ethical conduct.

Given our commitment to professional and ethical standards within our profession ~~IAATI~~ the Branch adopts the following Code of Ethics.

The following Code of Ethics shall be adhered to as a condition of membership or affiliation with the Association.

- a) Members shall observe the highest of moral principles and shall perform their professional duties in accordance with the law.
- b) Members shall at all times act with integrity, truthfulness and honesty.
- c) Members shall observe diligence in the discharge of their professional responsibilities.
- d) Members shall not divulge information in an inappropriate or unlawful manner and shall exercise due care to prevent unlawful or improper disclosure.
- e) Members shall not maliciously injure the reputation or professional practice of colleagues, employers, insured's, claimants or other parties to an investigation.
- f) Members shall display the requisite integrity to make the right decision when faced with potential conflicts of interest.
- g) Members shall not act in any way as to bring the Association into disrepute.

Section 4: Non Profit.

The assets and income of the branch shall be applied solely in furtherance of its abovementioned objectives, and no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly to the members of the organisation except as bona fide compensation for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the organisation.

Amendment 4

Section 4: Non Profit.

The assets and income of the branch shall be applied solely in furtherance of its abovementioned **objectives purposes**, and no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly to the members of the organisation except as bona fide compensation for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the organisation.

Article 2: Membership

Section 1: Government membership.

Any person employed by a recognised law enforcement agency; Persons employed by a Government Scientific or Forensic body, whose duties relate to the aims of the Branch; Employees of Motor Vehicle Registration authorities; members of the Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council or any person honourably retired from one of these categories.

Amendment 5

Section 1: Government membership.

Membership is open to any person employed by a recognised law enforcement **or regulatory agency**; Persons employed by a Government Scientific or Forensic body, whose duties relate to the aims of the Branch; Employees of Motor Vehicle Registration authorities; members of the Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council; or any person honourably retired from one of these categories.

Section 2: Industry membership.

Membership is open to employees of the motor vehicle insurance industry; motoring associations; Private Inquiry Agents involved in vehicle theft investigations; employees of motor vehicle manufacturing or importing firms **and** associated industries; or any person honourably retired from one of these categories.

Amendment 6

Section 2: Industry membership.

Membership is open to employees of the motor vehicle insurance industry; motoring associations; Private Inquiry Agents involved in vehicle theft investigations; employees of motor vehicle manufacturing or importing firms; **and** associated industries; or any person honourably retired from one of these categories.

Section 3: Application for membership.

Membership shall be granted at the discretion of the Committee. Applications are to be made to the Secretary. Applications of persons denied membership shall be returned to the person applying with a letter of explanation.

Section 4. Life Membership.

The Branch may confer Life Membership upon any member who has rendered distinguished service to the Branch and its purposes. Nominations for Life membership shall be made by the Committee at any Annual Meeting and approval by a majority of vote of members present at the meeting. Any Life member shall have the privileges and responsibilities of a member, without payment of annual fees. Past presidents having completed two terms as President shall be entitled to become a Life Member of the Branch, as approved by the Committee.

Amendment 7

Section 4. Life Membership.

The Branch may confer Life Membership upon any member who has rendered distinguished service to the Branch and its purposes. Nominations for Life membership shall be ~~made-received~~ by the **Executive Committee** at any time for ~~Annual Meeting and~~ approval by a majority ~~of~~ vote of ~~the committee members present at the meeting~~. Any Life member shall have the privileges and responsibilities of a member, without payment of annual fees. Past presidents having completed two terms as President shall be entitled to become a Life Member of the Branch, as approved by the Committee.

Section 5. Termination.

Membership in the Branch shall terminate by;

- a) voluntary withdrawal.
- b) when a member is in arrears with fees or other obligations to the Branch.
- c) A two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the ~~entire~~ Committee, if the Committee considers that the member has exhibited conduct inconsistent with the ethics and aims of the Branch.

Amendment 8

Section 5. Termination.

Membership in the Branch shall terminate by:

- a) voluntary withdrawal;
- b) when a member is in arrears with fees or other obligations to the Branch; **or**
- c) **a** two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the entire Committee, if the Committee considers that the member has exhibited conduct inconsistent with the ethics and aims of the Branch.

Article 3: Election of Officers

Section 1: Committee.

The Committee of the Branch shall consist of the Executive Committee, Ordinary Committee and Regional Representatives.

The Executive Committee shall consist of President, two Vice-Presidents, the Immediate Past President and Secretary known as the Executive Committee.

The Ordinary Committee will consist of six (6) elected representatives.

Current IAATI (AB) Constitution

The Regional Representatives shall consist of ex officio appointments appointed by the Committee on application to represent any Region or Area not otherwise represented on the Executive or Ordinary Committee provided that such Region or Area has ten financial members of good standing at the time of the application. Regional representatives shall for the purpose of this Constitution shall have the same voting rights and powers as Ordinary Committee members.

The Executive Director shall be an ex officio appointment on agreement by the Committee.

Amendment 9

Section 1: Committee.

The Committee of the Branch shall consist of the Executive Committee, and Ordinary Committee Members. and Regional Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of President; three (3) Vice-Presidents, the Immediate Past President and Secretary Executive Director known as the Executive Committee.

The Ordinary Committee Members will ordinarily consist of ~~between six (6) and twelve (12)~~ elected ~~representatives~~ members and elected by vote at the Annual General Meeting. (AGM).

~~The Regional Representatives shall Members shall consist of ex officio appointments to a number determined as necessary by the Committee appointed made by the Committee on application to represent any Region, or Area Function or Class not otherwise represented on the Executive or Ordinary Committee, provided that such Region, or Area, Function or Class has ten financial members of good standing at the time of the application. Regional Representatives shall for the purpose of this Constitution shall have the same voting rights and powers as Ordinary Committee members.~~

The Executive Director shall be an ex officio appointment on agreement by the Committee.

Section 2: Election and Terms of office.

The holders of all Executive Committee positions (except Immediate Past President) will be elected by ballot at the Annual General Meeting each year by a majority vote of members of good standing. They will hold office until the election of their respective successor.

Notice of Election and call for nominations for all Executive Committee positions will be made with the notification of the first Annual General Meeting held in any calendar year usually in conjunction with the Annual Training Seminar. Nominations will be closed on the evening before the Annual General Meeting. Voting and proxies will be taken from the floor of the Annual General Meeting by ballot with the results disclosed at the seminar dinner.

All persons nominated for a position on the Executive Committee MUST be in attendance at the Annual General Meeting unless exemption to do so is granted by the Committee on the basis of work related, unforeseen or medical issues.

Ordinary Committee members will be elected by Postal Ballot each year by a majority vote of members of good standing within their respective Region.

Notice of Election and call for nominations for all Ordinary Committee members will be commenced at the Annual General Meeting and by mail with the elections concluded within 60 days. In the event of a tied ballot then the Executive Committee shall have a

Current IAATI (AB) Constitution

casting vote. Ordinary Committee members will hold office until the election of their respective successor.

Regional Representatives shall be an ex officio appointment on application to the Committee.

The 'Policy and Procedural' manual shall dictate the terms as to the conduct of the ballot for Executive Committee and Ordinary Committee members.

Amendment 10

Section 2: Election and Terms of office.

The holders of all Executive Committee positions (except Immediate Past President) will be elected by ballot at the ~~Annual General Meeting~~ AGM each year by a majority vote of members of good standing ~~in attendance or by proxy~~. They will hold office until the election of their respective successor.

Notice of Election and call for nominations for all Executive Committee positions will be made with the notification of the first Annual General Meeting held in any calendar year usually in conjunction with the Annual Training Seminar. Nominations for the ~~Executive Committee positions~~ will be closed on the evening before the Annual General Meeting. ~~Nominations for the Ordinary Committee positions will be closed by announcement at the commencement of the Annual General Meeting following a final call for nominations.~~ Voting and proxies will be taken from the floor of the Annual General Meeting by ballot with the results disclosed at the seminar dinner.

Candidates for nomination to the office of President shall only be eligible for such nomination if:

- they have served one or more elected periods as a Vice President within the last five years; or
- they have served three or more elected periods as an Ordinary Committee Member within the last five years.

Candidates for nomination to the office of Vice President shall only be eligible for such nomination if they have served two or more years as an Ordinary Committee Member within the last five years.

All persons nominated for a position on the Executive Committee MUST be in attendance at the Annual General Meeting unless exemption to do so is granted by the Committee on the basis of work related, unforeseen or medical issues.

Ordinary Committee members will be elected ~~by ballot at the AGM through the votes of those present and by proxy. or by Postal Ballot each year by a majority vote of member of good standing with their respective Region.~~

Notice of Election and call for nominations for all Ordinary Committee members will be made with the notification of the first Annual General Meeting held in any calendar year usually in conjunction with the Annual Training Seminar. ~~commenced at the Annual General Meeting and by mail with the elections concluded within 60 days.~~ In the event of a tied ballot then the Executive Committee shall have a casting vote. Ordinary Committee members will hold office until the election of their respective successor.

~~Regional Representatives shall be an ex officio appointment on application to the Committee.~~

Current IAATI (AB) Constitution

The 'Policy and Procedural' manual shall dictate the terms as to the conduct of the ballot for Executive Committee and Ordinary Committee members.

Section 3: Casual vacancies.

In the event of a vacancy occurring on the Committee between Annual meetings, the Committee may appoint a member to the vacancy. This person will hold office until the next Annual Meeting.

Amendment 11

Section 3: Casual vacancies.

In the event of a vacancy occurring on the Committee between Annual **General** meetings, or in the event that the committee consider a further appointment in excess of twelve committee members (notwithstanding the provisions of Section 1) is in the best interests of the Branch then the Committee may appoint a member to the position of Ordinary Committee member by simple majority vote of a valid quorum at a Committee meeting . This person will hold office until the next Annual **General** Meeting.

Article 4: Administration

Section 1: Committee.

The administration of the Branch shall be vested in the Committee. A majority of members of the Committee, including the President, or a Vice President, or the Secretary at any duly constituted meeting, shall constitute a quorum. Each member of the Committee shall be entitled to one vote on any question before the Committee. A simple majority vote will decide the question. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson shall have the casting vote. The Executive Director shall be an ex officio member of the Committee.

Section 2: Committee meetings.

Where possible, Committee meetings will be held in person. However, members in locations remote from the meeting may attend by telephone or tele-conferencing link-ups. At least two meetings will be held each year. Additional meetings may be called by any member of the Committee.

Section 3: Duties and Powers.

The Committee shall have full authority to initiate and transact all business necessary for the existence of the Branch and the fulfilment of its aims.

Section 4: President.

The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Branch, and shall be responsible for supervising and coordinating the activities of the Branch, and presiding at meetings of the Branch and Committee. The President may appoint appropriate individuals or committees for the conduct and activities of the Branch and shall require reports from each as deemed fit. The President, through regular communication with the other Committee members, shall ensure that the responsibilities of the positions are being properly fulfilled.

Section 5: Vice President.

In the absence of the President, a Vice President nominated by the President shall be the Chief Executive and shall act as such.

Amendment 12

Section 5: Vice Presidents.

In the absence of the President, a Vice President nominated **in writing** by the President shall be the Chief Executive and shall act as such. **If the President is unwilling or unable, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Committee.**

Section 6: Secretary.

The Secretary shall keep the records and minutes of the Branch, and shall maintain the membership list, the Constitution, and all other documents or items of value entrusted to the position. It shall be the Secretary's duty to receive and acknowledge all communications of the Branch addressed to the Secretary, or that may be submitted by the Committee. The Secretary shall provide, to members at each Annual Meeting, a report of income and expenditure. The Secretary shall also perform such duties as assigned by the President.

Amendment 13

Section 6: Secretary.

The Secretary shall keep the records and minutes of the Branch, and shall maintain the membership list, the Constitution, and all other documents or items of value entrusted to the position. It shall be the Secretary's duty to receive and acknowledge all communications of the Branch addressed to the Secretary, or that may be submitted by the Committee. The Secretary shall provide, to members at each Annual **General** Meeting, a report of income and expenditure. The Secretary shall also perform such duties as assigned by the President.

Section 7: Ordinary Committee members.

Ordinary Committee members shall assist the President with the administration of the Branch.

Section 8: Executive Director.

The Executive Director shall assist the President and Committee with the administration of the Branch. The Executive Director shall be responsible to the President and Secretary for the disbursement of Branch funds and shall regularly provide a complete summary of all income and expenditure. The Executive Director shall be responsible for maintenance of the Register of Members and perform such duties as assigned by the President. The incoming President shall nominate, to the Committee, a member of good standing to be the Executive Director.

Amendment 14

Section 8: Executive Director.

The Executive Director shall assist the President and Committee with the administration of the Branch. The Executive Director shall be responsible to the President and Secretary for the disbursement of Branch funds and shall regularly provide a complete summary of all income and expenditure. The Executive Director shall be responsible for maintenance of the Register of Members and perform such duties as assigned by the President. The ~~incoming~~ President shall nominate to the Committee, ~~at the Committee's inaugural meeting or as soon as practicable after election~~, a member of good standing to be the Executive Director.

Section 9: Meetings.

The Branch shall hold an Annual Meeting, the venue for each successive meeting decided by the members.

Amendment 15

Section 9: Meetings.

The Branch shall hold an Annual ~~General~~ Meeting, the venue for each successive meeting decided by the ~~members~~ ~~Committee in consultation with the members~~.

Section 10: General Voting.

Only current financial member, which include Life Members, and excludes corporate members, may vote upon issues which come before the Branch. Written proxy votes will be permitted.

Amendment 16

Section 10: General Voting.

Only current financial members, which includes Life Members, ~~and but~~ excludes corporate members, may vote upon issues which come before the Branch. Written proxy votes will be permitted.

Section 11: Policy and Procedures.

There shall be a policy and Procedures manual to describe the operating procedures of the Branch. The Policy and Procedures manual shall define the responsibilities of the Branch officers, the conduct of the Annual meeting, the administration of the Branch Awards and other items deemed appropriate. The Policy and Procedures may be amended by a majority vote of the Committee.

Amendment 17

Section 11: Policy and Procedures.

There shall be a ~~Policy and Procedures~~ ~~Manual~~ to describe the operating procedures of the Branch. The Policy and Procedures manual shall define the responsibilities of the ~~Committee Branch-officers~~, the conduct of the Annual ~~General Meeting~~, the administration of the Branch Awards and other items deemed appropriate. The Policy and Procedures may be amended by a majority vote of the Committee.

Article 5: Affiliation.

Section 1: Charter.

The Branch shall constitute a regional chapter of the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators (IAATI). Such status will be recognised by the issuing of a charter to the Branch, following written application.

Amendment 18

Section 1: Charter.

The Branch shall constitute a regional chapter of the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators (IAATI). Such status will be ~~recognised~~ preserved by the ~~issuing~~ maintenance of a the charter issued to the Branch, following written application.

Section 2: Assessment.

The Branch shall be required to pay to the IAATI an annual assessment for each Branch member. The amount of this assessment shall be determined from time to time by an Annual Meeting of IAATI. The assessment will be forwarded to the IAATI Treasurer within forty-five (45) days of the end of the Branch's membership year. Failure to pay the assessment may result in forfeiture of the Charter.

Section 3: Annual Meetings.

On those years that the IAATI's Annual Meeting is held within the Branch's area, the Branch's Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the IAATI Annual Meeting.

Amendment 19

Section 3: Annual Meetings.

On those years that the IAATI's Annual Meeting is held within the Branch's area, the Branch's Annual ~~General~~ Meeting will be held in conjunction with the IAATI Annual ~~Training Seminar~~ Meeting.

Article 6: Finance

Section 1: Fees.

Committee shall fix annual fees for membership of the Branch. The fees shall be payable in advance of January 1 in the manner prescribed by the Committee. A prospective member shall submit fees with their application for membership, which, upon admission, will pay fees until the 31st of December following. Failure to pay fees within (90) days of the dues date shall result in forfeiture of the membership.

Amendment 20

Section 1: Fees.

The Committee shall fix annual fees for membership of the Branch. The fees shall be payable in advance of January 1 in the manner prescribed by the Committee. A prospective member shall submit fees with their application for membership, which, upon admission, will pay fees until the 31st of December following. Failure to pay fees within (90) days of the dues date shall result in forfeiture of the membership.

Section 1: Audit.

An auditor appointed by the Committee shall audit the accounts of the Branch each year. A written report from the auditor shall be made available to membership upon request.

Amendment 21

Section 4 2: Audit.

An auditor appointed by the Committee shall audit the accounts of the Branch each year. A written report from the auditor shall be **accepted by the Committee and** made available to ~~membership members~~ upon request.

Article 7: Amendments

Section 1: Requirements.

This Constitution may be amended by any Annual Meeting of the Branch by a vote of three-quarters (3/4) of the members present, provided:

- a) the proposed amendment is disseminated in writing to the membership of the Branch at least thirty (3) days prior to the Annual Meeting.
- b) the proposed amendment is presented in a form consistent with, and without conflict to the remainder of the existing Constitution.

Written proxies shall be counted as being present at the meeting for the purpose of this Section.

Amendment 22

Section 1: Requirements.

This Constitution may be amended by any Annual **General** Meeting of the Branch by a vote of three-quarters (3/4) of the members present, provided:

- a) the proposed amendment is disseminated in writing to the membership of the Branch at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual **General** Meeting.
- b) the proposed amendment is presented in a form consistent with, and without conflict to the remainder of the existing Constitution.

Written proxies shall be counted as being present at the meeting for the purpose of this Section.

Article 8: Dissolution of the Branch

Section 1:

In the event of the Branch being dissolved, the amount which remains after such dissolution and the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, shall be paid and applied by the Committee in accordance with their powers to any fund, institution or authority which is a non-profit organisation.