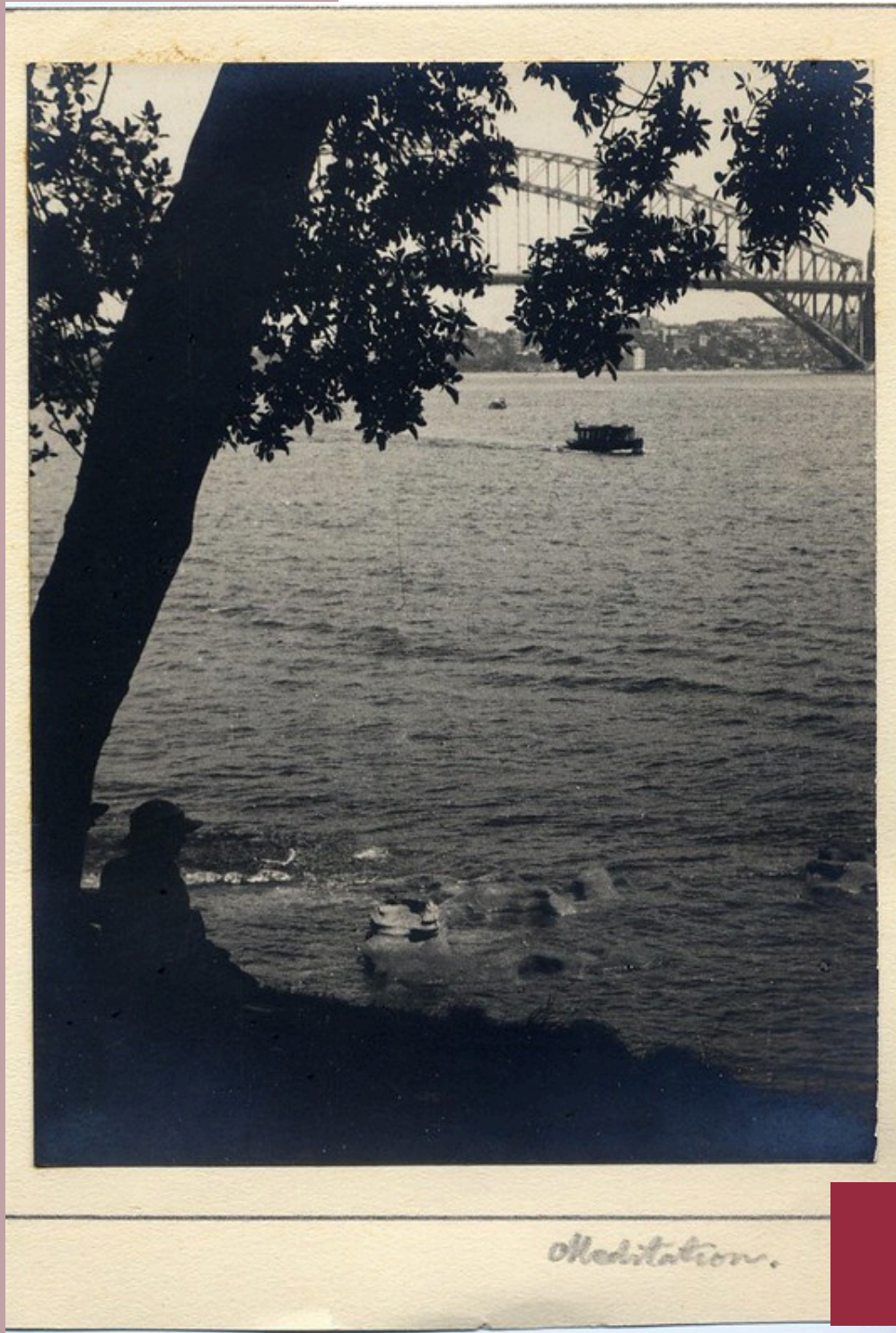
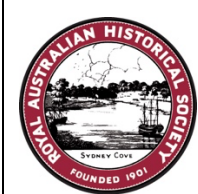


DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES RAHS PRESIDENT



‘Meditations’

Image: RAHS Osborne Collection c.1920



DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE RAHS PRESIDENT

Last review

March 2025

Overview

The RAHS President provides leadership to the RAHS Council, ensuring the organisation fulfils its mission to promote and advance the understanding of Australian history. The President plays a key role in governance, strategic planning, advocacy, and external representation.

The position requires a time commitment of approximately 7 to 10 hours per week, though this may vary depending on events, meetings, and specific initiatives. The President is elected by RAHS Councillors and is expected to demonstrate strong leadership, strategic vision, and a deep commitment to the Society’s mission.

Duties and Responsibilities

Leadership and Governance
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• provides effective leadership to ensure the RAHS Council operates efficiently and achieves the Society’s objectives• ensures that the Council functions effectively, with clear governance structures and strategic oversight• acts in a manner that builds trust and collaboration among Councillors, employees, volunteers and members• ensures RAHS meets its legal, financial, and governance obligations, including compliance with the RAHS Constitution, the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth), and ACNC standards• upholds key policies, including the RAHS Code of Conduct, and ensures best governance practices
Working with the RAHS General Manager
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• maintain a strong and collaborative partnership with the RAHS General Manager to support the Society's strategic priorities and effective operations• provide guidance on governance, policy implementation, and operational matters• ensure alignment between day-to-day operations and the Society's mission and strategic goals• work collaboratively to address emerging challenges and opportunities
RAHS Council Meetings - Oversight
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• chairs RAHS Council meetings, ensuring productive discussions and sound decision-making.• presides over Annual General Meetings (AGMs) and Special Meetings• ensures regular Council meetings are well-structured, efficiently run, and strategically focused.• works with the RAHS General Manager to develop meeting agendas, ensuring Councillors receive relevant information in advance.• reviews and signs Council meeting minutes, confirming their accuracy after formal approval.

External Representation and Advocacy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acts as the official representative and spokesperson of RAHS, articulating the Society's position on historical and heritage matters • builds and maintains strong relationships with key stakeholders, including government agencies, historical organisations, and affiliated societies • represents RAHS at conferences, public events, and community engagements, advocating for the Society's work • leads strategic advocacy efforts to ensure the RAHS is an influential and respected voice in discussions about history, heritage, and cultural policy
Strategic and Organisational Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • guides the development and implementation of the RAHS's long-term strategy and vision in collaboration with the Council and General Manager • works with RAHS Council to identify new opportunities, partnerships, and initiatives that support the Society's growth and impact • supports fundraising, sponsorship, and grant-seeking efforts where appropriate • ensures RAHS remains inclusive, engaging, and responsive to the needs of members, volunteers, and affiliated societies
Signing Authority and Official Duties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • signs official letters, contracts, and agreements on behalf of the RAHS Council, in accordance with the Society's governance policies and delegations of authority • ensures sound financial oversight, working with the Treasurer and Council to review budgets and financial statements • may be called upon to represent RAHS in official communications, media engagements, and policy discussions

Key attributes and expectations

The RAHS President plays a vital role in guiding the organisation and ensuring it remains a respected and influential force in promoting Australian history.

Given the hands-on nature of the role, the RAHS President should:

- Have a strong connection to the NSW history community, with relevant expertise and networks
- Be a strategic thinker with experience in leadership and team management
- Be an effective communicator, capable of representing RAHS in public forums, media, and stakeholder discussions.
- Demonstrate a deep commitment to RAHS's mission, with a clear understanding of the organisation's history, role, and future direction.



Dawn over the Harbour.

‘Dawn over the Harbour’

Image: RAHS Osborne Collection c.1920