

# DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES RAHS SENIOR VICE- PRESIDENT AND RAHS VICE-PRESIDENT



‘Meditations’

Image: RAHS Osborne Collection c.1920



## DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE RAHS SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT

Last review

July 2025

### Overview

The Senior Vice-President and Vice-President play a vital role in the leadership and governance of the Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS). The Senior Vice-President is the primary deputy to the President, while the Vice-President provides additional leadership support and undertakes key projects as required.

Elected by the RAHS Council, these positions are often held by individuals who have previously served as President or may be considered for the role in the future, ensuring succession planning and leadership continuity.

While the time commitment varies, both office-bearers must be available to support the President as needed and step in when required. Their primary role is to assist with presidential duties and, in the President's absence, oversee key governance, advocacy, and representation responsibilities.

### Duties and Responsibilities

#### Support for the President and Succession Planning

- work closely with the President to ensure effective governance and strategic leadership
- assist in transitioning leadership by gaining insight into the President's responsibilities and operations.
- provide mentorship and support for Councillors to strengthen future leadership within the RAHS
- be prepared to step into the President's role temporarily if required

#### Governance and Council duties

- support the President in Council meetings, decision-making, and governance oversight
- if the President is unavailable, the Senior Vice-President will chair Council meetings, AGMs, or special meetings as required

#### Advocacy and External Representation

- represent RAHS at events, conferences, and official functions, advocating for the Society and its mission.
- serve as a public spokesperson on behalf of the RAHS, when delegated by the President or Council."
- strengthen relationships with key stakeholders, affiliated societies, and the broader historical community.
- support RAHS's advocacy efforts in history, heritage, and cultural policy discussions

#### Organisation and Strategic Support

- work with the President and General Manager to develop and implement strategic initiatives
- provide guidance on Society-wide projects, fundraising, and outreach programs
- support the recruitment and engagement of new Councillors, helping to foster strong governance
- assist in ensuring the RAHS remains an inclusive and collaborative organisation that serves its members and the broader community

## **Key Attributes and Expectations**

The RAHS Senior Vice-President takes on a greater leadership role and is first in line to assume the President's duties if required. The RAHS Vice-President provides additional support and may assist in key projects or areas as agreed upon with the President. Both roles require strong leadership, governance experience, and a commitment to the mission of the RAHS.

These office-bearers play an essential role in ensuring the RAHS maintains strong and effective leadership across its governance, operations, and community engagement activities





*Dawn over the Harbour.*

‘Dawn over the Harbour’

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