

Rationale for changing the structure and rates of membership fees

1. Budgetary considerations

The aim of the current budget is for the membership fees to pay for the office support of the members and for events planning, and for the events income to support Te Papa as required by the Friends constitution.

2. Membership fee complexity

Currently the Friends have five different membership fees for members with different fees for members living outside the Wellington region. This creates complexity for the office during the membership renewal process making it time consuming. It also creates complexities when reconciling accounts. The possibility of a five year fee creates additional complexity both for the office and in the accounts.

The proposal before the members is to simplify the fee structure having one membership fee per member per annum.

3. Membership cards

The Executive Committee has determined to introduce plastic membership cards reducing the long term costs of membership cards, making for a reduction in the work connected with membership renewals, creating convenience in the use of Te Papa discounts by members and easier integration into the Friends' web site data base.

The individual plastic membership cards should make attendance at those events which are open only to members such as exhibition previews, back of house tours and floor talks simpler to monitor.

4. The proposal

Currently membership fees do not cover the Friends' office operational costs. This is because there has been a five-year-long gradual decline in membership from a high of 1,800 members to now 1,300 including dual and family subscriptions. The Executive Committee is adopting a two-pronged approach to try and remedy this situation. It wishes to co-opt a person to implement a five year plan to attempt to bring the individual membership up to 2,500. This will include finding more members in the inner city as its population increases.

The committee is also recommending:

- a. that membership fees increase by \$5.00 per individual member per annum, roughly in line with the increase of the CPI over the period since fees were last raised,
- b. that dual memberships be amalgamated with family memberships to allow couples with grandchildren and parents with children to have these as members, and
- c. that student memberships be free.

Single membership: \$55 per annum

Family membership: \$110 per annum. Children under 18 free.

Student membership: free