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13 January 2025

### COMMUNIQUE – RNZRSA CONSTITUTION

We are aware that a document claiming to be an “alternative constitution” has been circulated recently, and there have been questions as to what is going to happen regarding it. It is essential to clarify that the RNZRSA is not affiliated with the group responsible for the document or the supporting flyers.

The key concern with this “alternative constitution” is that it directly contradicts the primary recommendation of the 2014 Independent Task Force (ITF) Report. That report highlighted the need for the RNZRSA to have a competent governance and leadership structure to address the organizational weaknesses that existed at the time. The “alternative constitution” would recreate these same issues by moving away from the structure recommended in the ITF report, overlooking the historical context and the practical realities of governance that the RNZRSA must contend with today and into the future.

The RNZRSA remains committed to a constitution that reflects the feedback we have received and that aligns with the needs and aspirations of the wider RSA community. The ongoing development of this constitution framework is being guided by the Constitution Working Group (CWG), which has been engaging with members across all regions through a transparent and iterative process, incorporating valuable feedback at every stage.

A strong, future-focused constitution is critical not only for the effective governance of the RNZRSA but also for maintaining the organisation’s reputation as a trusted and legitimate entity. It will help ensure that the RNZRSA remains relevant within the veteran community and with our external stakeholders. At this crucial moment, when internal conflicts have been making headlines, we must prioritise unity and progress.

In the coming weeks, the latest draft of the official RNZRSA Constitution will be made available for review. This document, which has been developed through the collaborative process, will be presented for ratification at the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) on 22 March 2025. This is the one that deserves your attention. Further, we will also release an updated draft of the Model Constitution. During the lead up to the EGM, we welcome any questions or comments, which can be sent to [review@rsa.org.nz](mailto:review@rsa.org.nz).

The CWG's collaborative and consultative approach, rooted in the lessons of the past (such as the ITF report), is the best way to develop a constitution that meets the needs of the RNZRSA community and ensures long-term stability. We appreciate and encourage the continued support and engagement of all members as we move toward finalising and adopting the new RNZRSA Constitution.

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Chair, RNZRSA Board

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National President, RNZRSA

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