

Jake Milford

Management Committee Action item

VCA President's Report

THAT the Management Committee endorse the following Action Item:

That the VCA President's Report requires Management Committee approval before the report can be published in the VCA Magazine/Gazette, VCA Newsletter or any other platform.

Rationale:

The VCA President Report that was published by means of VCA Newsletter 17 February 2023 has brought the VCA and the Office of President into disrepute for the following reasons:

1. The message is the personal opinion of the VCA President and not that of the Management Committee for which the President is the spokesperson. Members of the Management Committee do not have any medium for such messaging.
2. The President has directly promoted the website "Dogs Victoria Fake News" by name, which I am sure would have boosted the websites visits as this message was sent to all VCA Members.
3. The President has discussed a matter which he knows is currently under internal investigation by the Victoria Police Service.
4. The President utilised Facebook comments by non-Dogs Victoria members and referred to correcting the "inbalance". If you wish to have a balanced view you need to also list comments from the opposite point of view which have been posted on the same Facebook post.
5. The President failed to address the issue at hand, did the VCA Investigator had approval from the Victorian Police Service or not? This matter is a Victorian Police Integrity issue as Victorian Police are not permitted to hold a role (whether paid or volunteer) that involves investigation. (Refer to attached information from the Victoria Police Service Website.)

6. The President has deliberately made reference to the Election of Management Committee Members and made unsubstantiated claims and cast dispersion on Management Committee election candidates.
7. The President must remain neutral when it comes to candidates for the election of Management Committee Members. Please refer to the VEC Guidelines attached.
8. The President advised VCA Members to question Management Committee Members if they have any association with those that are behind a website. A basic human right is freedom of association. And with the current case before VCAT confirms a pattern of oppressive behaviour. This is disgraceful and not becoming of the Office of VCA President. During WWII the Nazi Party interrogated people if they had an association with individuals and/or groups, such as Jewish people, gay men etc. Who an individual associates which is not the business of the VCA President or any other person. Inciting such behaviour can lead to hatred and is abhorrent and offensive.
9. I suggest that the President familiarises himself with the VCA Document (Clubs and their Purposes- attached) especially the item of President and associated note:

A President should not become involved in activities which could undermine the impartiality of the office. A President should be available for consultation by the Secretary and other office bearers as required but should not normally undertake specific executive functions more appropriate to their particular positions.

Additional Comments:

The President should publish a correction as a matter of urgency to advise members that the report was his personal opinion and that he regrets referencing the election and his unsubstantiated allegations of wrongdoing by VCA Management Committee Member/s.