



# BULLETIN FEBRUARY 2023



**Dear Members,**

Welcome to this JOINT BULLETIN #2 from Associated Residential Parks Queensland Inc. & Manufactured Home Owners Association Inc, now incorporated as QMHOA since 20 January 2023.

## **AMALGAMATION UPDATE**

We are pleased to be able to announce that the amalgamation of MHOA, Inc. and ARPQ, Inc. has been formally completed. It has been recognised by the Office of Fair Trading and Queensland Manufactured Home Owners Association Inc., has been registered as an Incorporated Association.

Though we are now officially one organisation rather than two there is still much to be done in merging different aspects of our operations. The Interim Committee met early in February, before we were advised the amalgamation was completed, and groups of its members agreed to develop plans for doing this work. The Committee will meet again on 28th February to discuss starting to put those plans in motion.

One of the things that was agreed upon in the first Interim Committee meeting was that we would move as quickly as possible to convene a first General Meeting of members of QMHOA, Inc. after the amalgamation is formally recognised. Decisions on the details of all that is involved in doing this can now be taken in our meeting on the 28th. Members can expect to get notifications of the date of the General Meeting along with calls for nominations for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee Members and some Notices of Motions, etc. in the near future.

For the time being, members are advised to continue to contact and communicate with us in the same ways as they have done in the past. We particularly wish to emphasise that we are open for business and keen to provide information, assistance, and advice to members in the way we have done in the past as separate organisations.

Both the MHOA and ARPQ Websites will continue to be open, though from now on all the same new materials will be added to both. Work has already commenced in developing a new QMHOA site, but we anticipate that it may some time before it is fully launched.

It is also our intention that a news bulletin like this one will be distributed to all members about once per month to try to keep them informed of what is happening in QMHOA and the Manufactured Home Residential Park world.

## **QMHOA MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW DUE – Ex-MHOA MEMBERS ONLY:**

Fees for the year 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 are : \$20.00 per Household  
\$40.00 per HOC

We are in a transition stage where we are gradually combining ARPQ and MHOA services, so to make the paying of fees simple, we are continuing to use the forms shown on the MHOA Website and fees will be paid into the same bank account as previously used, and which is shown on these forms.



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## FEBRUARY 2023



Members renewing by cheque – please make cheques payable to MHOA and post these to PO Box 932 Booval Fair 4304

If you have any concerns or questions, or would like renewal forms posted to you, please contact [admin@mhoa.com.au](mailto:admin@mhoa.com.au) or phone (07) 3040 2344

Note: Ex-ARPQ members fees are currently not due until 30th September 2023. It is anticipated that there will be a notice of a motion to be proposed by the Interim Committee and our first General Meeting, so that, as required by our constitution, members can vote upon what the fees for QHMOA membership will be in the future.

### APPLICATIONS TO QCAT

A number of members have contacted us seeking some clarification on a few points that were made in the article in the News Bulletin distributed last month about applications to QCAT. Hopefully, the points made below will help to clarify our understanding of these matters.

#### i. Application Fees

- We can confirm that there are separate fees to be paid of each stage of the dispute management process through QCAT. That is for both an application for mediation and an application for a hearing before the Tribunal. The current full fee in both instances is \$362.
- We can also confirm in both instances holders of Commonwealth Pension or Concession Cards can apply for and receive an exemption from paying these fees. Evidence of the possession of the cards, in the form of photo copies of both sides of them, must be provided to get the exemption.
- It should also be noted that if the application is made by a group, then all members of the group must provide evidence they are eligible for an exemption before it is granted to the group. If any member of the group is not eligible then the full fee for the application must be paid.

#### ii. Home Owners Committees (HOCs) as Applicants to QCAT

- In different sections of the Manufactured Home Act it is made clear that HOCs can be parties to disputes under the Act and that all disputes are to be handled using the processes that include applying to QCAT for either mediation or a Tribunal hearing. HOC's are thus able to take a dispute they, as an organisation, have with a park owner to QCAT.
- However, it must be acknowledged that in the majority of cases where an application to QCAT is made the HOC becomes involved either because one of more of its members is one of a group of residents making an application and they are asked to play a lead role, or because an individual or group of residents has asked that the HOC and or one of its members act as their representation in either a mediation or at a Tribunal hearing.