



Tasmanian  
Association of  
State  
Superannuants Inc.

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# SUPER-NEWS

No: 1/21

Autumn Edition

March 2021

## TASS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Tuesday 16 March 2021

**Venue:** Motor Yacht Club of Tasmania (MYCT)

1 Ford Parade

Lindisfarne

(Access from East Derwent Highway, via Lincoln Street and Park Road  
Parking is available at the MYCT or on the street

**Time:** 1:30 to 3:00pm (including afternoon tea)

**Guest Speaker:** To be confirmed

In addition, it is planned to offer members the opportunity to attend the meeting via Zoom. This will allow members to see and hear the meeting and to vote on motions via Zoom. Zoom invitations will be emailed a few days prior to the meeting. Strict COVID-19 protocols are in place.

**RSVP:** By 5:00pm Thurs 11 March 2021 to Charles Thomas, 0422414861 or [info@tass.org.au](mailto:info@tass.org.au)

Please indicate if you will attend in person, or via Zoom.

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### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**TASS needs volunteers to nominate to join the Executive** - if you, the members, want TASS to continue operating effectively to represent your interests, then some of you will need to step forward to help. If you are interested in nominating to join the Executive please complete the enclosed nomination form. If you are unable to provide a Nominator and/or Secunder an Executive member will oblige.

**Nominations close 5.00pm: Thursday 11 March 2021**

## **AGM AGENDA**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 2020 AGM
3. President's Report 2020
4. Auditor's Report 2020 / Financial Report
5. TASS Special Resolutions
6. Membership Officer's Report 2020
7. Election of Office Bearers. All positions will be declared vacant
8. Election of Auditor
9. Election of Legal Advisor
10. Close of AGM

**Nominations close 5.00pm: Thursday 11 March 2021 Nomination Form included in this newsletter**

**RSVP:** By 5:00pm Thurs 11 March 2021 to Charles Thomas, 0422414861 or [info@tass.org.au](mailto:info@tass.org.au)

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## **2020 AGM 25 August 2020 – Attendees & Apologies**

### **Attendees:**

Chris Bevan (President and Chairperson), John Minchin (Vice President, A/Secretary), John Chalmers (Treasurer), Charles Thomas (Membership Officer) Ross Brown, Stephen Graetzer, Jean Walker, Murray Harper, John Pauley (all Executive Members), Lindsay Jones, Ross Butler, Don Dobie, Chris Scott, Peter Johnson, Mike Walker, Beth McLeod, Lindsay McLeod, Daniel Albert, Peta Miley, Eric Stadler, Kip Muller, Elizabeth Muller, Tony Coupe, Sally Coupe, Sue Leitch (Guest Speaker), Gerald Upchurch, Randall Hall, Warwick Robinson, Tim Swifte, Colin Mackenzie (via Zoom).

### **Apologies:**

Miriam Beer(NZ), Eric Ogilvie, Mel Morris, Gill Morris, Jeneane Thomas, Barbara Wesley OAM, Sue Kremer, Don Wells, Denise Bower, Mike Sharman, Philippa Sharman, Jeanette Dennison, Elija Jaksic, Nanette Jaksic, Peter Kearney, David Louez.

## 2020 AGM Minutes

Held on 25 August 2020 at MYCT 1 Ford Parade, Lindisfarne, and via Zoom, commencing at 1:30pm

Item heading	Issue / Discussion	Decision
<b>Guest Speaker</b>	Guest Speaker Sue Leitch COTA - "Embracing the Future in light of COVID19"	The meeting showed its appreciation in the usual manner.
<b>1.Apologies</b>	As noted above	
<b>2 Confirmation of previous AGM minutes</b>	Minutes of 2019 AGM Dated 19 March 2019 were endorsed.	Endorsed unanimously.
<b>3 Presidents report</b>	The 2019 Presidents Report by Mr Chris Bevan (copy attached) - was distributed to all members via the March Super-News. There was a brief report by C Bevan on recent TASS activities.	
<b>4 Audited financial report</b>	Audited Report of the Receipts and Payments for the year to December 31st, 2019, tabled and attached. (Members were also referred to the Report in the March Super-News)	Report received and adopted. Moved: J Chalmers Seconded: C Bevan
<b>5 Membership Report</b>	Membership Report for the year to December 31st, 2019, tabled and attached. (Members were referred to the Report in the March Super-News)	Report received and adopted. Moved: C Thomas Seconded: R Brown
<b>6 Election of Office Bearers.</b>	All positions declared vacant. Nominations were received for the positions of:	
	President: Nominated - J Minchin. As there is only one nomination,	J Minchin was duly elected
	Vice-President: Nominated - John Pauley. As there is only one nomination,	J Pauley was duly elected
	Secretary: Nominated - John Chalmers. As there is only one nomination,	J Chalmers was duly elected
	Treasurer: Nominated – Mike Walker. As there is only one nomination,	M Walker was duly elected
	Membership Officer: Nominated - C Thomas. As there is only one nomination,	C Thomas was duly elected
	Newsletter Editor: Nominated - J Thomas. As there is only one nomination,	J Thomas was duly elected
	Exec members: (6 vacancies) Nominated - Murray Harper, Jean Walker, Stephen Graetzer. R Brown, and C Bevan Nominations from the Floor – Nil	As there are only 5 nominations, Murray Harper, Jean Walker, Stephen Graetzer. R Brown, C Bevan were duly elected.
<b>7 Election of Auditor</b>	Auditor - Mr Kim Darling has agreed to be the TASS auditor for 2020. Motion that Mr Kim Darling be endorsed as Auditor for 2020	Moved: J Chalmers Seconded: M Walker Endorsed.
<b>8 Election of Legal Advisor</b>	Legal Advisor - Mr Nathan Munting from Wallace, Wilkinson and Webster has agreed to be the TASS legal advisor for 2020 Motion that Mr Nathan Munting be endorsed as Legal Advisor for 2020	Moved: R Brown Seconded: J Walker Endorsed.
<b>9.General Business</b>	A matter relating to use of euphemisms relating to death in TASS articles was sought presented as a motion, but this was denied. The President undertook to take the matter to the Executive and consider it in due course.	
<b>AGM Closed 3:00pm</b>		

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## **FROM THE PRESIDENT/ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

Another AGM so soon – the last one was in August 2020, six months later than normal.

My report covers the 2020-21 year but with a focus on the last six months since that AGM.

Firstly, I would like to thank the outgoing President Chris Bevan for his four years at the helm of TASS. A lot of work has been done over that time. Members frequently send unsolicited comments about the great work that TASS does for them. Chris has remained on the Executive so his experience and advice is still available to us. Also, long time Treasurer John Chalmers (I am not sure for how many years, but a lot!) moved over to the Secretary role and a new Executive member, Mike Walker took over the Treasurer role. Executive member John Pauley stepped in to the Vice President role. Thank you to John, Mike and John for work done and future work as well!

TASS remained active over the last months in responding to changes in the makeup of the Superannuation Commission. Since its inception in 2016 as the replacement for the RBF Board under the new Public Superannuation arrangements, the Commission has operated as a three person Commission. Previous president, Chris Bevan, was nominated by TASS and selected to sit on the Commission. The Government recently decided that it was time to reduce the Commission to a single person. TASS has raised a number of concerns with the Premier. At the same time, the Government announced that as part of its COVID Recovery plans, about \$200M of RBF funds would be redirected to investments in Tasmanian projects. TASS gave in principal support for this and received a guarantee from the Premier that RBF members would not be disadvantaged.

To date we still have concerns about both these linked issues and will continue to raise these with the Government to ensure the interests of members are properly looked after.

TASS continues, albeit at a less active pace, to seek to have changes made in relation to the '10%Cap' Act. To this end we have liaised with Senator Lambie's office and Andrew Wilkie's Office on ways to continue our fight. Clearly, the current economic circumstances and budgetary position due to COVID-19 do not help us much.

Other activities we are involved in or issues that we are keeping a watch on are –

- Member's issues and complaints
- Retirement Incomes and indexation of pensions
- Attempting to attract new members
- Surviving partner issues

We continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and how it impacts our operations, meetings, and forums, and the general wellbeing of our members. If the situation in Tasmania remains as stable as it has, we hope to hold forums again in 2021.

And finally, the perennial membership issue – both of TASS itself, and the Executive.

We struggle to find ways to attract new members to TASS. The only way we have found to date that works is by current members encouraging their friends and colleagues. Please continue to do so as maintaining a solid membership helps give TASS a voice. In terms of the Executive, we need people to step up and put their names forward. We now have three Presidents and ex Presidents, two Treasurers and ex treasurers, two secretaries and ex secretaries, and a number of long term serving Executive members. In many ways that is good, but it isn't sustainable. We need new people with new ideas and a willingness to help. So please consider nominating.

Looking forward to a brighter 2021

**John Minchin**  
**President**

**TASMANIAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE SUPERANNUANTS  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT**

**FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2020 TO 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**INCOME**

Member Subscriptions 2020	\$ 8,470.00
Donations	2,043.00
Functions	1,350.00
Interest	1,151.79

**TOTAL INCOME** **\$13,014.79**

**LESS EXPENDITURE**

Advertising	490.60
Affiliations	225.00
Audit & Annual Return	264.80
Functions	2,652.50
Insurance	574.23
Membership	224.40
Miscellaneous	159.15
Office	1,928.88
Phone	836.00
Postage	1,625.31
SuperNews	7,115.91
Travel	250.00
Zoom	161.63

**TOTAL EXPENDITURE** **\$16,508.41**

**DEFICIT FOR YEAR** **(\$ 3,493.62)**

**TASMANIAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE SUPERANNUANTS  
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**ACCUMULATED FUNDS**

Association Funds B/f 1/1/20	\$63,290.73
Less Deficit for Year	( 3,493.62)
<b>Association Funds C/f 31/12/20</b>	<b>\$59,797.11</b>

**Represented by:**

**ASSETS**

Cash at MyState	\$11,563.07
Accrued Interest	384.04
Term Deposit MyState	\$63,000.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$74,947.11</b>

**LESS LIABILITIES**

Deferred Membership Income	
Membership Subscriptions 2021+     \$ 3,670	
Members for Life (\$15 pa for 7 years) \$11,480	<b>\$15,150.00</b>

<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$59,797.11</b>
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**Michael Walker CPA  
Treasurer**

**ACCOUNTS CURRENTLY BEING AUDITED FOR TABLING AT AGM**

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**TASMANIAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE SUPERANNUANTS INC  
Special Resolutions for Annual General Meeting 16 March 2021**

**Background**

These resolutions proposed by the TASS Executive are intended to take advantage of recent changes to the Associations Incorporation Act 1964. Incorporated associations with annual revenue below \$250,000 no longer have an audit requirement. However the Association's Constitution needs to be changed by Special Resolution accordingly.

In support of the Special Resolutions the TASS Executive highlight the following factors:

1. TASS annual revenue is less than \$15,000, a mere 6% of the threshold;
2. Both annual revenue and expenditure is consistent and predictable;
3. TASS has strict financial internal controls, Executive governance and monthly reporting;
4. TASS will still prepare and submit financial statements to the AGM and the Tasmanian Government. These financial statements will be authorised by the TASS Treasurer and President on behalf of the Executive.

### **Changes Requiring Special Resolution**

- 6c** **Current** – The Treasurer shall keep true records of accounts for all money received and expended by the Association; which shall be sufficient to satisfy the requirements of the **Auditor and the Executive**. They shall be available for inspection by any member of the Executive subject to any reasonable restrictions as to time and manner that the Executive may impose.  
**Delete** – “Auditor and the”
- 6e** **Current** – After the end of each Association financial year the Treasurer shall present at the following Annual General Meeting **an audited** report of the Association’s financial position.  
**New** – After the end of each Association financial year the Treasurer shall present at the following Annual General Meeting a report of the Association’s financial position and its performance for the year ended on that date. The report will be certified by the Treasurer and President.
- 7.** **Current - APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR AND LEGAL ADVISOR**  
**Delete** – “AUDITOR AND”
- 7a** **Current** – **An Auditor and a** Legal Advisor for the ensuing year shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.  
**New** – A Legal Advisor shall be appointed for the ensuing year at the Annual General Meeting.
- 7b** **Current** - The Auditor is to examine the accounts of the Association at least once each financial year and submit a report to the Annual General Meeting certifying the correctness or otherwise of the accounts of the Association.  
**Delete this whole clause**
- 7c** **Current** – The Auditor shall include in the report whether in his or her opinion the required information in the accounts is properly drawn up to show a true and correct view of the financial position of the Association whether the required information has been made available to him or her and whether the rules relating to the administration of the funds have been observed.  
**Delete this whole clause**

**8c Current** – The ordinary business of an AGM shall be to confirm the minutes of the preceding AGM; to receive from the President and the **Auditor** reports on the transactions of the Association during the preceding financial year of the Association; to elect the officers of the Association – President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Membership Officer and six Executive members; and to appoint an **Auditor** and a Legal Advisor.

**Changes** – Delete Auditor and replace with Treasurer; Delete “and to appoint an Auditor and a Legal Advisor” and replace with “and to appoint a Legal Advisor.”

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## **MEMBERSHIP OFFICER’S REPORT 2020**

**TASS membership as at 31/12/2020 totals 961 (down 49 on last year)**

<b>The membership consists of:</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
• Couples (351 x 2)	702	732
• Single Superannuants	136	149
• Widow/Widower of a Superannuant	123	129
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>961</b>	<b>1010</b>

During the year 2020, 27 new members joined the Association.

The Association seeks your assistance in recruiting new members where possible to ensure that our numbers maintain a level sufficient to be a strong and viable Association. Application forms can be obtained from the website [www.tass.org.au](http://www.tass.org.au) and it also provides updates on recent topics of interest to our members.

The cost of membership is minimal, \$15.00 pa for a Superannuant (or Couple) and \$10.00 pa for a Widow/Widower of a Superannuant.

In 2019, the Association introduced a Membership for Life; a one off payment of \$120.00 for a Superannuant (or Couple) and \$80.00 for a Widow/Widower of a Superannuant. The number of members that have taken up this option now totals 121.

For those members who have not yet renewed their membership for 2021 please take this opportunity to do so, as your continued support is valued and eagerly sought. Refer to the website [www.tass.org.au](http://www.tass.org.au) for a Renewal form or a Membership for Life application.

**Charles Thomas**  
**Membership Officer**

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## **Election of Office Bearers AGM 16 March 2021**

Nominations from financial members of the Tasmanian Association of State Superannuants Inc. are invited for election to the Executive for 2021 to be held at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday 16 March 2021.

All positions of Office Bearers are declared vacant at the AGM and nominations for the following positions are invited:

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Membership Officer
- Newsletter Editor
- Plus - up to an additional six (6) Executive members.

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## **Changes to the Superannuation Commission**

TASS reported in the last Super News (November) about changes being made to the Superannuation Commission and the TASS response to the Premier in which TASS raised a number of concerns regarding the transition of the Superannuation Commission to a single member Commission.

We have since received an email response from the Premier.

In the email he stated

“The original intent of the Public Sector Superannuation Reform Act 2016 was to have a single member Commission. However, during debate in Parliament it was determined that the Commission should initially consist of up to three members, to be appointed for terms of up to five years.”

In relation to the timing of the change and the operation of a single member Commission, he stated:

*“As I have previously advised, the Commission and the Office of the Superannuation Commission have now been operating for more than three years and a number of implementation issues have been bedded down. I remain of the view that it is an appropriate time to transition to a single member Commission.*

*The Commission’s internal controls have been considered, with adjustments being made where necessary to ensure the Commission can continue to meet its legal and operational obligations under the new structure. The operations of the Commission will continue to be monitored and refined in order to ensure it continues to operate effectively as a single member Commission.”*

In terms of the Commission being provided with support, the Premier said that the Office of the Superannuation Commission would continue to provide the Commission with dedicated, comprehensive support, including supporting the Commission’s management and reporting of disclosures of interest.

In responding to our concerns about the performance of the outsourced provider, Link, he said:

*“The Office is also responsible for the day-to-day management of the outsourced administration provider and will continue to address any concerns in relation to its performance. I understand that the particular issue you raised in relation to July CPI letters has since been addressed. Your active referral of such concerns to the Commission is welcomed and appreciated.”*

TASS raised concerns about access to advice for the single member Commission, the premier said that:

*“No changes have been made to the Commission’s current practices with regard to accessing external sources of advice, with the expert advisers to be facilitated by the Department of Treasury and Finance for the Commission in addition to existing practice.”*

The Treasurer reassured TASS that *“the Commission’s ability to continue to operate effectively as trustee of members’ benefits is at the forefront of my mind”*, and that he was confident that this will not be compromised.

He also expressed confidence *“that a single member Commission will continue to ensure that the Commission’s functions and powers are performed and exercised in the best interests of the beneficiaries and, in respect of Part 4, having regard to the interests of the State, as required under the Public Sector Superannuation Reform Regulations 2017.”*

He concluded by saying:

*“I understand that you have also written to the Superannuation Commissioner, Ms Horton, and she has offered to meet with you to discuss mutual issues related to the operations of the Commission.”*

TASS is currently in discussion with the Acting Director, Office of the Superannuation Commission (OSC) to set up a meeting between the Commissioner (Ms Evelyn Horton) and TASS. This is likely to be in late March.

TASS is still not convinced that the change is in the best interests of the members (Superannuants).

For example, when an issue needs to be decided, having other Commission members around the table with a range of experiences and knowledge must be a better process than having to formally seek advice from an external advisor who has no responsibility or accountability for the end result – ie they would be paid by the hour to give an opinion and as long as they weren’t negligent, they can provide their opinion and walk away. They wouldn’t be accountable to the members as the trustee is. Necessarily this process will take longer and will not take the views of the members into account because there is no-one on the Commission having direct links to the members.

TASS is of the opinion that it will be more difficult for the Superannuation Commission to be at arms-length from the Government as it should be. With the best of intentions, it will be tough for a single member Commission to act in the best interests of members without the ability to have discussions with others having a shared responsibility to members before making a decision or seeking external advice. A single Commissioner can’t have a discussion with themselves after all.

With regard to the ‘bedding down’ of implementation issues, particularly those relating to the outsourced provider, TASS continues to receive anecdotal evidence that indicates there are still issues that members feel are not being done well enough. Where these issues can be clearly articulated, TASS will continue to inform RBF so that improvements can be made.

#### **What members can do**

TASS invites members who are concerned about the changes to the Superannuation Commission to write to the Premier outlining their views.

The address is:

Hon Peter Gutwein MHA  
Premier of Tasmania  
Executive Building  
15 Murray Street, Hobart, TAS 7000

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### **RBF Return of Overpayment Issue**

Back in 2019, TASS received representations from the daughter of an RBF Life Pensioner. The pensioner passed away in 2016, and her mother was in receipt of a “surviving partner” pension. She had also recently passed away.

The daughter informed TASS that RBF subsequently sent a letter to her mother’s Estate extending condolences to the family, and then stating that the pension entitlement had ceased, and that the pension had been overpaid because notification of the death date occurred after the date of death.

The duration of the overpayment of the pension was one (1) day, and the amount of “overpayment” requested to be refunded to RBF was less than \$100.

TASS wrote to the Director of the Office of the Superannuation Commission (OSC) in April 2019, stating that it found the request for repayment astounding; the amount itself is relatively trivial and could be easily absorbed by RBF. TASS also observed that the demand “gives people a very negative impression of RBF”.

TASS would have expected that there would be a simple RBF policy or procedure that allowed for a “write off” of any “overpayments” occurring within a pay period, and that only sought repayment of payments made in subsequent pay periods following the death of the surviving partner (or the pensioner, where there is no partner).

TASS recommended that (if it didn’t already exist), a suitable policy or procedure be put in place at the earliest opportunity.

After many months, no response had been received, and the Executive directed a follow up to be made. Then COVID hit and people’s minds turned to other matters.

Then in Dec 2020, TASS wrote again to the OSC to find out what had happened.

We advised that we understood that RBF had in fact agreed to rescind the demand for refund of overpayment.

TASS again asked whether RBF had a policy on dealing with overpayments of this nature and restated its view on this issue, which is that, if an overpayment occurs within the pay period that the death occurred, then any overpayment should be waived. TASS added *“We believe this approach is reasonable, particularly at a time when family are grieving the loss of a loved one”*.

On 4 February 2021 TASS received a letter from the Acting Director, OSC, Judith Keith. She apologised for the delayed response. Apparently TASS used an outdated GPO Box number. In her letter, she said

*“I note TASS’s view that if an overpayment occurs within the pay period that the death occurred, then any overpayment should be waived. Under Regulation 58 of the Public Sector Superannuation Reform Regulations 2017 the Commission has the discretion to write off the whole or any part of a payment in excess of the amount properly payable in certain circumstances.*

*Pension write-offs are considered on a case by case basis and the Commission considers various grounds when making a decision, for example materiality, the cost-benefit of recovery efforts and whether or not the notification of the death and the cessation of the pension were handled within reasonable timeframes. I appreciate that due to the nature of our fortnightly pension cycle, small overpayments are unavoidable when a death occurs between pension pay dates, even with prompt notification. This is certainly taken into account by the Commission delegates when exercising this discretion, along with any other relevant facts. Please note that the OSC actively seeks to minimise the extent of pension overpayments by reviewing death notices daily and obtaining weekly reports from the Department of Birth, Deaths and Marriages. This also allows the OSC to identify potential surviving spouses proactively and commence next steps with them as quickly as possible”.*

TASS accepts that RBF demands for overpayment of pension in these types of circumstances will be determined using discretion based on the circumstances and in accordance with the *Public Sector Superannuation Reform Regulations 2017*. However, In order to ensure the approach is consistent when ‘discretion’ is applied by different people, TASS still believes there should be a procedure in place to ensure that all members are treated equitably.

TASS understands that it is a difficult time when Partners or families are dealing with the death of a loved one. Nevertheless, notifying RBF of the situation as soon as possible will minimise the potential for unexpected requests for return of pension overpayments.

If you are faced with a request that you don’t understand or are unhappy about, and you don’t know what to do, contact TASS as we will be able to point you in the right direction for a resolution.

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Congratulations are in order for our Vice President, John Pauley, who has been elected President of Council on the Ageing (COTA) Tasmania.

TASS is an organisational member of the Council.

COTA Tasmania invites people to become members. The annual subscription is \$34 (Single) and \$44 (Joint).

COTA publishes a monthly e-newsletter, *Rethink Ageing*, which it invites folk to subscribe to. COTA Tas email contact is [admin@cotatas.org.au](mailto:admin@cotatas.org.au). COTA Tas can also be followed on Facebook.

## **Free Legal advice for older Tasmanians - COTA**

### **Monthly service expands to Launceston**

Are you an older Tasmanian needing legal advice? Or are you worried about an older person you know? Legal Aid’s clinics at COTA Tasmania offer free, private and confidential appointments. Their friendly lawyers are especially skilled in helping you future-proof yourself against elder abuse, but you can talk to them about any legal matter.

Over the years, many older people have sought their advice on:

- preventing and responding to elder abuse
- estate planning and wills
- protecting your finances
- guardianship
- end of life planning
- disputes with family and neighbours
- frauds and scams
- the implications for your pension of gifting money to your children
- many other matters that affect older people.

Bookings are essential. You can book regardless of where you live in the State. Just ring COTA Tasmania on 6231 3265 or email [admin@cotatas.org.au](mailto:admin@cotatas.org.au).

**Clinic times:**

**Hobart:** 10am to noon on the first Wednesday of every month except January.

**Launceston:** 10am to noon on the third Thursday of every month except January.

If you can't attend in person, you'll be offered a phone consultation or advised of other options.

You can also ask questions about elder abuse by ringing the Tasmanian Elder Abuse Helpline on 1800 441 169.

In an emergency ring 000.

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### **Surviving Spouse – Payment of Pension - Additional Information**

Under the current situation the RBF must be satisfied that payments made on the passing of the superannuant are made to the legal surviving spouse.

If the RBF is satisfied with its initial inquires on the passing of the superannuant that there is a surviving spouse they are reluctant to immediately cease the pension while the proper inquiries are made to clearly confirm the surviving spouse's details. In such cases under the current arrangement the RBF will continue to pay a reduced pension to the superannuant's account but only if –

**“the account is in the joint names of the superannuant and their spouse  
with either able to sign”  
(not both required to sign)**

The reason for this is that if the account is in the name of the superannuant only, or is in joint names but requires both to sign the account is not able to be accessed by the surviving spouse, so the ongoing payment of the reduced superannuant's pension provides no benefit to the surviving spouse and would only increase the overpayment that would accrue by the ongoing pension payment.

After lobbying by TASS and Retired Police Association Tasmania (RPAT), a new entitlement of an “interim surviving spouse payment” is being introduced to the Regulations in 2020. This will simplify the ability of the RBF to directly make payments to the surviving spouse on the passing of the superannuant while the process for determining the eligibility of the surviving spouse is underway.

If current superannuants wish to open a new joint account, (superannuant and their spouse) with either to sign or change an existing joint account from both to sign to either to sign and advise the RBF that this is now the new account for pension payments, it will also be valid under the new legislation.

TASS will advise members when further changes to the legislation become law.

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## **PARTNER’S ENTITLEMENT ON DEATH OF THE SUPERANNUANT DEFINED BENEFITS CONTRIBUTORY SCHEME**

### **Definition**

1. Reversionary – means an entitlement to a payment exists for the surviving partner
2. Non Reversionary – means no entitlement to a payment exists for the surviving partner

### **Is the Superannuant’s Pension Reversionary or Non Reversionary?**

#### **Members who started contributing to the Contributory Life Scheme – Pre 1/7/94**

1. These pensions are all reversionary pensions.
2. Pensions cease on the death of the partner, no payment available to partner’s estate.
3. Payment options available as shown in 1, 2 or 3 under the heading “Payment Options”.

#### **Members Started Contributing to the Contributory Life Scheme – 1/7/94 - 14/5/99**

1. Can be a reversionary or non-reversionary pension, depending on the election made by the Superannuant at the time of their retirement.
2. Once the Superannuant has elected Reversionary or Non-Reversionary Pension it cannot be changed.
3. If Reversionary Pension– payments available as per 1, 2 or 3 under the heading “Payment Options”.
4. If Non-Reversionary – the surviving partner has no entitlement to any payment.

### **Payment Options Available to the Surviving Partner**

1. A fortnightly life pension of;  
Two-thirds (2/3) of the Superannuant’s pension paid to the partner upon the Superannuant’s death; **OR**
2. A one-off lump sum payment  
The surviving partner will receive a lump sum calculated using 2/3 of the pension that the Superannuant was receiving at the time of their death and that amount is multiplied by a number which corresponds to the age of the surviving partner.

The multiplication number for each age can change, listed below are three current examples”

**If 2/3 of the Superannuant’s pension equals \$p,**

A partner aged between 64 and under 65 will receive a lump sum of \$p multiplied by 8.7

A partner aged between 70 and under 71 will receive a lump sum of \$p multiplied by 7.5

A partner aged between 85 and under 86 will receive a lump sum of \$p multiplied by 3.5

**OR**

3. Any percentage taken as a combination of a life fortnightly pension plus a one-off lump sum.

Example – 60% of the partner’s pension paid fortnightly plus a 40% one off lump sum payment

**What should the partner do after the death of the Superannuant?**

1. Phone the RBF Helpline on 1800 622 631.
2. Provide information on the phone including member details and date of death.
3. Check if the Superannuant had a Reversionary or Non-Reversionary pension.
4. The surviving partner will be required to provide supporting documents requested by RBF.
5. If the RBF approves, an interim pension will be paid to the partner until the process is finalised.

For more information please visit the Retirement Benefits Fund Website on: [www.rbf.com.au](http://www.rbf.com.au).

One publication on the website that is well worth reading can be found by typing into the search box, *Reversionary life pension surviving partner application checklist*. Then scroll down slowly and click on the same heading that was entered into the search box and the publication should appear.

If you wish to see an RBF consultant, please phone the RBF Helpline on 1800 622 631 and make an appointment. N.B. the RBF is also known as the Office of the Superannuation Commission.

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## USEFUL CONTACTS FOR TASS MEMBERS

(Revised March 2019)

### Retirement Benefits Fund (RBF)

All enquiries 1800-622-631  
Website [www.rbf.com.au](http://www.rbf.com.au)

### Australian Taxation Office (ATO):

Personal taxation information 13 28 61  
Website [www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au)

### Centrelink:

(Access Centrelink and Medicare services)

Older Australians and Financial Information Services 132 300  
Disability, Sickness and Carers 132 717  
Website [www.humanservices.gov.au](http://www.humanservices.gov.au)

## TASS EXECUTIVE – ADMINISTRATION

### TASS:

**Postal Address:** GPO BOX 1650, Hobart, TAS 7001  
**E-mail:** [info@tass.org.au](mailto:info@tass.org.au)  
**Ph:** 0448 731 845  
**Website:** [www.tass.org.au](http://www.tass.org.au)  
**Facebook page:** [www.facebook.com/TASSTasmania](http://www.facebook.com/TASSTasmania)

<b>President:</b>	John Minchin	Ph: 6247-1115/0448 731 845
<b>Vice President</b>	John Pauley	Ph: 0415 287 115
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<b>Super-News Editor:</b>	Jeneane Thomas	Ph: 0408 485 902
<b>Northern Tasmania Representative:</b>	Vacant	
<b>North-West Tasmania Representative:</b>	Donald Wells	Ph: 6432-3641

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND/OR EMAIL

Should you change your address and/or email details please advise the **Membership Officer, Charles Thomas**, so that he can update our records. Tel: 0422 414 861

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