

Queen's Council 2017 Summary

Queen's Council held on 20th May 2017 in Rutherglen Victoria. 17 Queens/Vice Queens present

Next Queen's Council will be hosted by Queen Travelot (Vivienne) in Melbourne

The following is a summary of the discussion points that were raised at the Council



Each attendee was given a card with the details of the Red Hats Victoria website "Queens" Page. This page has a link to the Queen contact list, downloadable Queen's Handbook and details of the next Queen's Council.

Point of discussion – Attendance of the Queen's Council

Discussed an overall lack of RSVPs for the Queen's Council (some ladies did RSVP but a lot did not) and general events as well. Discussed that it is important and polite to RSVP even if you are not going, as having no response from most people to invitations can be disheartening.

Discussed perhaps having a yes/no tick box on Queen's Council booking forms and perhaps an area to say why you're not attending, to help us know and make changes if needed.

Discussed making a survey asking Queens why they did not attend this event, so that we can get a better understanding of the reasons why some people did not (or weren't able to) attend, in the hopes of making changes to make the event more accessible.

Discussed the confusion some people had over who was invited (Vice Queens/Queen Mothers etc.) and where information on the Queen's Council was advertised. It was noted that the Queen's Council event is advertised on the Red Hats Victoria website, facebook page and newsletter – as well as being emailed to all Queens on the chapter list. But it is not emailed to Vice Queens as we don't have their contact details.

Point of discussion – members not wearing hats.

It was discussed that some members don't wear hats and what can be done to encourage them.

The difficulty of finding inexpensive hats was brought up and it was suggested to create a page on the Red Hats Victoria website where people can send in photos of their DIY hat decorations, to help give ideas to others.

Some tips given were that produce bags (such as onions) often come in purple and red mesh which can be used for decorating hats. Hats can be spray painted. If your hat is too big, then foam weather strip can be used on the inside band to help it fit better.

Point of discussion – Some members having trouble with RHS website

Some members have been having trouble changing details (such as change of Queen) on the RHS official website, and the RHS have not been answering email requests for help. We discussed how it is a shame there is no Australian contact we can use to phone up for help.

Point of discussion – Is registering with RHS worth it

The topic of if the RHS membership was worth it or not was brought up. Many Queens (even some who do keep their chapters officially registered) felt that they did not get any benefit from their registrations/membership.

It was brought up that some chapters would feel happier if there was an Australian branch of the RHS that we registered with.

It was discussed that purchasing the extra brooches at the time of renewing helps give extra value for your money – however it seems that feature is no longer available on the new RHS website.

Point of discussion – Insurance

It was discussed that Public Liability Insurance may not be needed when the events are held in public places, but if having events in your home (or members homes) it may be a good idea. It was mentioned that it is believed to be that someone can only sue you if you were negligent in some way, so if there is an incident while Hatting, it does not necessarily mean the person could sue you as the Queen.

Discussed the topic of contributing money for carpooling. It could be considered that you had paid for the service if you make payment to the driver beforehand, so if there is an accident this may cause problems. It was therefore suggested that any travel contributions be paid at the end of the journey – that way you are all home safely when payment is made. *(Please note this is not legal advice, just what was discussed)*

The insurance provided through ARHGA was discussed. It was brought up that there is no Product Disclosure statement released with that insurance, so the information of what you are covered for, the excess and any conditions are not properly disclosed – so those taking up that insurance offer should contact the group and/or the insurer to find out those details before signing up. Those details were requested so they could be included here, but they were not provided at time of writing this.

It was discussed that previous years insurance had required details of the chapter to be given (eg how many members and how many events) and that if your chapter changed those details you may not be covered by the insurance any more, but this years application form does not require this information.

Point of discussion – Networking

It was discussed that it would be beneficial for Queens from neighbouring areas to get together for networking and to occasionally invite other chapters on outings. This helps the different chapters spend time together and can help boost numbers in smaller chapters.

Point of discussion – “Trusted Tradies” list

An idea brought up was to have a “Trusted Tradies” list, where if members from a chapter use a tradesperson and they are happy with the service, they can enter that person into a list, so that when a member needs a tradesperson they have a list of recommendations they can use.

Point of discussion – Name-badges

It was discussed that we should create a list of good name-badge suppliers, as this is something a lot of chapters have difficulty finding. Badge suppliers from that discussion were:

- Hat Badges – www.hatbadge.com (USA)
- Central Trophies – www.centraltrophies.com.au
- Ebajunda - www.ebajinda.com

It was discussed that Central Trophies may be able to make special Red Hatter name badges.

It was discussed that a good idea was for emergency contact information to be put onto the back of name badges, so that if a member becomes ill during an event, the contact information for their emergency contact is easily found on the back of their name badge.

It was also discussed how purchasing name badges from overseas can be very expensive due to the postage rates – but that if chapters were able to do a larger order by combining orders together, that the shipping cost could be split, and even if the badges had to be posted within Australia, this is likely to be cheaper than if each chapter purchased their badges separately.

Point of discussion – Fun and Interesting Activities

An idea for an interesting outing was to go to a McDonalds (Checking with the manager beforehand) and setting up a table with a tablecloth, candleabra, silverwear and glasses – then ordering and eating your McDonalds at this fancy table setting – just for a laugh.

Another idea offered was to go to visit your local fire station – bringing some cakes for the firemen. Chapters who have done this have been well received, being given tours of the facility and the firemen have expressed that they were thankful for the fun and enjoyment it brought them as well.

Mystery Bus tour – Queen organises an outing but doesn't tell the members where they are going - they just get on the bus and see where it takes them. Suggested way to pay for bus hire (as it can be expensive) is to have every member contribute \$2 to a bus fund at each outing you do, and this can be used to fund the bus hire.

Queen's Birthday suggestion – have everyone dress as a Queen for the day and go out for a nice lunch/afternoon tea.

Other things

- Bring a few ziplock bags with you when you're out, so you can bring back food
- Make a table centrepiece/sign for the RHS to take to put on tables when you are out.
- Suggest checking the calendar when planning events to make sure your proposed event is not too close to an event someone else is running.
- Reminder to chapters to submit their squares for the RHV banner
- Reminder to Queens that there is a handbook they can download.