OSGeo Oceania:
Membership policy

Principles

As a community organisation, OSGeo Oceania aims to be accountable to its membership. To ensure we have an appropriate membership that's representative of the Oceania open geospatial community, we need a fair and transparent way to recruit and manage this membership.

It should be easy to join, and inclusive of people interested in the responsible management of the organisation, for the benefit of the community. We should provide a pathway for those wanting to contribute more to the organisation and assist in guiding strategy and direction. At the same time, we should protect the organisation from being overtaken by individuals who may have agendas that do not align with the purpose of the organisation as laid out in the Constitution [1].

We strive to be welcoming to all who wish to contribute, and to attract a membership reflecting Oceania's diverse open geospatial community, with regard to factors including (but not limited to) gender, race, age, geographic region, projects, programming languages, and interests.

We will not charge membership fees, as we wish to minimise barriers to entry, and a membership fee would be unlikely to generate enough revenue to be worthwhile.

Eligibility

Members should contribute to the open geospatial community in Oceania in some meaningful way. Contributions can be small and infrequent. For example, contributing positively to email discussions is considered valuable and meaningful. There are many other ways as well. If someone is actively participating on a volunteer basis, they almost certainly have the best interests of OSGeo Oceania at hand (though contributions made as part of work duties are still considered relevant).

To be eligible as a member, one should:

- act in accordance with the general goals of OSGeo Oceania, ie. *to foster the growth of the open geospatial community in the Oceania region*
- make positive contributions to OSGeo Oceania activities; this might be as simple as participating in email list discussions, or contributing to software, education, OpenStreetMap, committees, events, or volunteering in some other way
- work constructively and positively with others, in line with the OSGeo Code of Conduct

Only *people* are eligible to become members - organisations are not. Membership should reflect an individual's participation in the community, and members should not act as representatives of their employer or any other organisation.

Rights and responsibilities

Members have the right and responsibility to vote in annual board elections (which can be done electronically). Members not meeting this responsibility in two consecutive annual elections will be assumed to be inactive, and removed from the membership register, with thanks for their prior service.

Members may be nominated to serve on the board.

Members are expected to act in line with the Eligibility requirements listed above.

Process

Initial membership (2019)

To enable 2019 board elections, we require an initial membership. To facilitate this, people from the current OSGeo Oceania board and the 2018 & 2019 FOSS4G SotM Oceania organising committees will be invited to become members. The community will then be invited to nominate others.

Membership Working Group

The board will form a Membership Working Group (MWG) to manage the membership process on an ongoing basis. The MWG will require a minimum of 4 people, including at least 2 from the OSGeo Oceania board.

Members of OSGeo Oceania can express interest to participate in the MWG by emailing membership@osgeo-oceania.org. The board will make a decision on the needs of the MWG and allocate volunteer interest accordingly.

Nominations

The MWG will call for nominations on a quarterly basis, and announce the nomination period on the Oceania communication channels, such as mailing lists, Twitter, and others. Anybody can nominate new members.

To nominate someone in the Oceania open geospatial community, first confirm they agree to be nominated, write a brief nomination recommending their membership (with regard to the eligibility criteria), and send it to membership@osgeo-oceania.org.

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Review and ratification

The MWG will manage the review and approval of nominations, following this process:

- Confirm with each nominee that they agree to be nominated, they accept the responsibilities, and they are eligible
- Review nominations and raise any concerns
- Review any concerns raised, and make a determination on whether the concerns are sufficient to veto the nomination, documenting concerns as well as grounds for any vetoes
- Share quarterly membership determination with OSGeo Oceania board
- Move to ratify acceptable nominations
- Add the nominee to the register and notify them

In exceptional circumstances, the OSGeo Oceania board may overrule a decision made by the MWG.

Membership register

OSGeo Oceania will maintain a register of members, in accordance with the OSGeo Oceania Constitution [1] and relevant legislation. This register will contain each member's name, preferred name or alias, email address, and address of residence. To maintain privacy, the register will not be published. A list of members' preferred names will be published on an OSGeo Oceania website.

Removal of members

Members may request to be removed, or may be removed from the register for not meeting their responsibilities.

In exceptional circumstances, the board may decide to remove a member. The OSGeo Oceania Constitution [1] spells out the circumstances under which this may be done, and the process required to make it valid. This should be done in cooperation with the MWG.

[1] OSGeo Oceania Constitution: see https://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/Oceania

Note: we acknowledge the tremendous work of OSGeo, from which we've borrowed significantly in the development of this policy. Thanks for your support, as always.

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