



***THE HRA GNOME
OWNERS MANUAL &
MAINTENANCE RECORD***

**PRESENTED BY BOUTIQUE STATUE ARTISTRY AND THE
HISTORIC RALLY ASSOCIATION INC.
ON THE OCCASSION OF THE PLACEMENT OF HRA GNOME
#100
FEBRUARY 2020**



CONGRATULATIONS

A hearty HRA congratulations to you for being the owner of one or more of just 100 official raffled-at-a-club-meeting-and-numbered HRA Gnomes.

Your choice, to hand over your hard earned cash to play a game of chance with the unlikley outcome of taking home the Gnome, was a smart one.

The envy of your peers, your Gnome ownership marks you as a well cultured, well-educated worldly individual with strong leadership qualities combined with a razor sharp wit and superior intellect. Your choices are savvy ones and only copied by others, never bettered.

In short, HRA Gnome ownership marks you for greatness. Others will notice you. Musicians may write songs about you. Poets will immortalise you, even though they struggle to come up with better rhymes for Gnome than “foam”, “home” and “superdome”. If you are at a cocktail party and you see people huddled in a corner, pointing at you and talking to each other behind their hands, you can bet that your Gnome has something to do with it!

There are other HRA Gnomes. Specialty Gnomes, Event Gnomes, Guest Speaker Gnomes, Privately commissioned Gnomes and Pocket/Purse Gnomes. But nothing can compare to the factory-prepared-won-in-a-affle HRA Gnome for originality, provenance and sheer good looks.

With the right care, as outlined in this manual, your Gnome will provide many years of trouble free ownership which will be a source of immense joy and pride. The road to HRA Gnome ownership is paved with forests, open fields, gravel roads and maps with curious realignments. It can be challenging but thoroughly worth it.

On a serious note, your purchase of tickets for the raffle in recent years has been part of thousands of dollars given by the HRA to selected charities and community organisations. Thank-you.

THE HRA GNOME. FEATURES AT A GLANCE

- Cholestorol Free
- Fat Free
- Gluten Free
- Drug Fee
- Fragrance Free
- Tastless (as in what it tastes like; it is nothing but tasteful)
- Odourless
- Disease resistant
- Water resistant

Simple D.I.Y. Installation

You can install your HRA Gnome with ease. No special tools required. (see later section on indoor/outdoor installation).

OPERATING THE HRA GNOME

There's nothing to do. All the required settings are made in the Gnome factory and sealed for life (just like those expensive German Vehicle Transmissions). They are almost entirely maintenance free and with the correct care, will operate flawlessly for many years.

IMPORTANT. READ THIS MANUAL. SAFETY FIRST.



Protect your HRA Gnome from baddies .



**Never put your HRA Gnome in a bin. What were you thinking?
Always put rubbish in a bin or recycle or re-use.**



Smoking is strongly discouraged around HRA Gnomes. It's bad for them, it's bad for you.



**Drones may NOT be operated anywhere near an HRA Gnome.
It's just too soon.**

LIVING WITH YOUR HRA GNOME

Now that you have your hard won HRA Gnome, what will you do with it? (be nice)

Indoor installation

Indoors, your HRA Gnome will retain its lustrous shine best. A light dusting or wipe down monthly and the application of a SOFT (not medium, not hard) toothbrush to its delicate areas is all that's needed. Water those dying indoor plants while you're at it.

Your HRA Gnome is ideally suited to an indoor life where it may be considered one of the family. In the family situation you will find the HRA Gnome will quickly become that 'favourite child' that nobody ever admits exists.

Your HRA Gnome is:

- *A great listener, never interrupts you.*
- *Never talks back or talks over the T.V.*
- *Unwaveringly faithful*
- *Never walks away from an argument*
- *Your rock. (Well, as heavy as a rock)*
- *Never late for dinner*
- *Never steals your sunshine*
- *Never drinks your beer.*

Your HRA Gnome is the perfect panacea for loneliness. Let's face it, nothing says "Maaaate" like a pointy hat and frothy tankard!

Outdoor installation

Your HRA Gnome is equally well suited to an outdoor garden situation. Although occasional fence sitting can be prudent, your HRA Gnome is best positioned in semi shade and away from tom cats and golf balls.

Some loss of sheen is to be expected over time in the outdoor situation. In most cases this can be restored with a thorough wash (including the hard to reach places) and the application of a quality Australian made toothpaste such as CEDEL brand, to all exterior

surfaces. Work small amounts over the surface and allow to dry to a paste. Polish with a soft cotton or micro-fibre cloth and rinse thoroughly with clean water. Repeated treatment may be required in badly sun affected areas which will make you think twice about the location next time, won't it?

TOP TIP: Always use a quality mouthwash before cleaning your HRA Gnome. You will be pretty close and HRA Gnomes lustrous sheen may be sensitive to your foul breath.



Rowland Tidd (Left) and David Johns (Right) are presented with an HRA Gnome by HRA President Kate Officer, 2008 - 2009.

Do's and Dont's

Don't over feed on sugar Joel.

Do transport your HRA Gnome on the floor, it's natural habitat

Do keep the pointy end away from loved ones

Do face your Gnome towards Portland if outside.

Do place your Gnome where visting dignitaries and members of the Nissan Car Club will see it on entry to the home.

Do check your Gnome regularly for damage (see Nissan above)

Don't put your Gnome in your neighbours garden. That's bad form Bob.



Mark Dettering (Left) and Bruce Chisolm, both winners of the coveted HRA Gnome

The HRA Gnome history and trivia

The HRA Gnome, numbered 1 through 100 is hand crafted by Robert Cranston of Boutique Statue Artistry.

Operating out of quaint and historical premises located in what we know today as modern Chadstone, Boutique Statue Artistry has been supplying artisan styled value added concrete products for over 90 Gnome years, about 30 in human years.

Young Robert was just a starry eyed new member of the HRA when he found himself in charge of the meeting raffle, held in those days in Elsternwick. To spice it up a bit, he introduced the HRA Gnome, specially painted and decorated in the HRA colours of green and white. The rest, as they say, is history. 100 Gnomes later, here we are.

Fun Fact #1. The first few HRA Gnomes were not numbered, a little known fact. We do know that the first HRA Gnome (un-numbered) was won by Dave Robinson but beyond that, the names of the winners and their particular Gnome number have gone unrecorded. Perhaps we will never truly know the whereabouts of all 100.

Rumours and theories about the true fate of Number 1 have surfaced over the years. Some say it was destroyed when it fell from a hoist at Performance Exhaust in Ringwood (or was it pushed?). Others say it was raffled at the next meeting and is handed back quietly after each raffle draw, meaning there is only ever 1 HRA Gnome. Still others claim it was launched into orbit around the sun in the glovebox of Elon Musk's Tesla. Michael Conway reckons he saw it when trekking in Nepal recently.

Fun Fact #2. There are 2 moulds for the HRA Gnomes and there are slight differences between each. Only the trained eye can spot them and perhaps only Boutique Statue Artistry will ever know them all.

Fun Fact #3. Every HRA Gnome has been painstakingly painted by master craftsman Robert Cranston. There are 4 different brushes used on every Gnome, made from the fur of a Mauritian Rock Warbler.



Left to Right: A pensive Robert Richards, a delighted Rick Hartmann and a somewhat disbelieving Chris Ellis with their HRA Gnomes

• **Specifications**

- Height: 1 Gnome
- Mass: Significant (it feels like a lump of concrete)
- Displacement: Never
- Suspension: No, not expelled either
- Main Colour: Heritage Green
- Other colours: Engine Bay white, Blue Ribbon brown, BP pink
- 2 coats and oven dried between coats for lasting hardness and sheen

Other Maintenance

The HRA Gnome will give years of trouble free operation.

Should any of the factory settings be lost, or the delicate edges knocked around, the HRA Gnome can be returned to the factory for a new settings and/or refurbishment. Minor damage can be repaired by the owner using the paint colours listed above.

Though your HRA Gnome has two coats of the highest quality finish, a third coat is recommended to be applied after 5-10 years of an outdoor situation. The factory will be pleased to quote for complete refurbishment of your HRA Gnome at any time.



OK, so not everyone knows what to do next. This manual can take the worry out of Gnome Ownership.



Fence sitting is a favourite activity for the HRA Gnomes. Seen here on a stage of the 2020 Rally of the Heartland.

USING THE HRA GNOME TO FORECAST THE WEATHER



The HRA Gnome is wet.
It's raining.



The HRA Gnome is dry.
It's sunny. It may rain soon

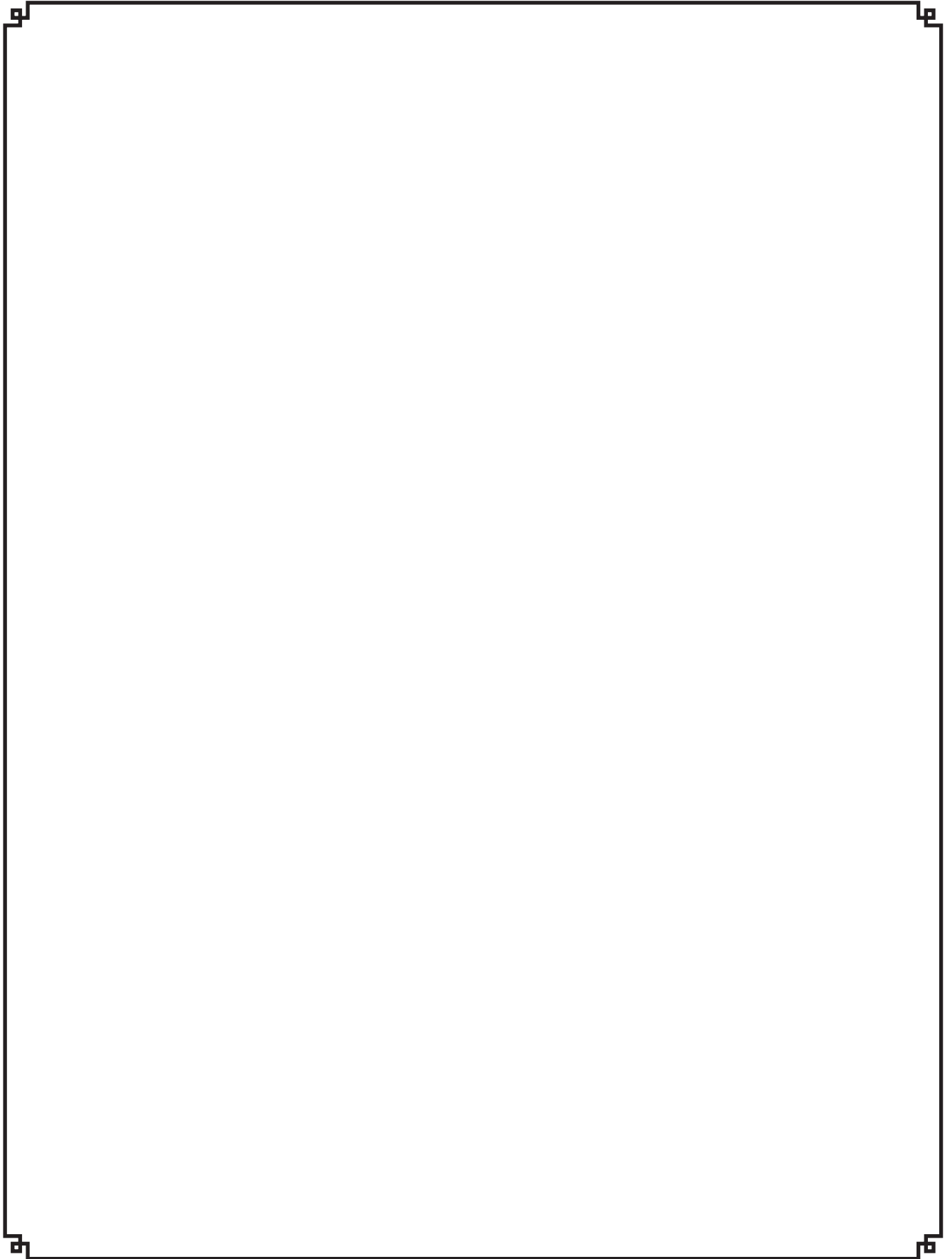


The HRA Gnome is hail damaged.
It's hailing



The HRA Gnome half under water
and listing to starboard.
It's raining a lot. Really a lot.

Autographs



Frequently asked questions

I won 2 Gnomes and I'm embarrassed.

Don't be. Remember, you are that good.

Should I get my Gnome vaccinated against influenza every year?

No.

If a dog urinates on my Gnome, can the Gnome tell if the dog is diabetic?

No. (That's a frequently asked question?)

Are all Gnomes the same weight?

No, variations will occur depending on summer and winter concrete mixes, curing times and artisan care factor.

Famous HRA Gnome movie quotes

"Keep your friends close, but your Gnomes closer." -The Godfather Part II, 1974

"They may take our lives, but they'll never take our Gnomes!" -Braveheart, 1995

"A hard Gnome is good to find." She Always Knew How: Mae West, a Personal Biography

"Frankly, my dear, I don't give a Gnome." Gone With the Wind, 1939

"I'm going to make him a Gnome he can't refuse." The Godfather, 1972

"Why don't you come up sometime and see my Gnome?" She Done Him Wrong, 1933

"You can't handle the Gnome!" A Few Good Men, 1992

"Houston, we have a Gnome." Apollo 13, 1995

"I feel the need - the need for Gnomes!" Top Gun, 1986

"I'll get you, my pretty, and your little Gnome too!" The Wizard of Oz, 1939