

RULES OF THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.

1. NAME

The name of the Society shall be "The Astronomical Society of Western Australia (incorporated)".

2. OBJECTS

The objects of the Society shall be the stimulation of a popular interest in astronomy; the association of observers, especially the possessors of small telescopes, for mutual help and their organisation in the work of astronomical observation.

The property and income of the Society shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Society and no part of that property and income may be paid or otherwise distributed, directly or indirectly, to members of the Society, except in good faith in the promotion of those objects.

3. COUNCIL

- (a) The officers of the society, hereinafter call the council, shall consist of the President, Vice President, Hon. Secretary, Hon Membership Secretary, Hon. Meeting Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Editor, Hon. Asst. Editor, and five other members, together with ex officio members as set out in rule 3 (d).
- (b) The Council shall have power to appoint additional officers and section leaders and to fill casual vacancies.
- (c) The Council shall manage the affairs of the Society, and shall appoint sub-committees from their own number or from among the members for special purposes. The Council shall have power to acquire, hold and dispose of property related to the objects of the Society.
- (d) The following shall be ex officio members of the Council :-
 1. Section leaders and additional officers as appointed under rule 3 (b).
 2. Hon. Librarian as appointed under rule 9.
 3. Immediate Past-president who shall be the person who held the presidency before the current President, irrespective of the current President's term in office.

4. ELECTION OF COUNCIL

- (a) The Council shall be elected by secret ballot at the Annual General Meeting. All retiring officers of the Council shall be eligible for re-election except the President, who shall not be eligible for election for a third successive year in that office.
- (b) Nominations for the various official positions, duly proposed and seconded and countersigned by the nominee, shall be lodged with the Secretary in writing seven days before the Annual General Meeting, but if no nomination is received for any such position the President or Chairman at the Annual General Meeting may call for nominations for that position.

5. PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT.

- (a) It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Council and Society.
- (b) In the absence of the President, the Vice- President shall preside. In their absence a chairman shall be elected by the meeting.

6. HON. TREASURER AND ACCOUNTS

- (a) It is the duty of the Hon. Treasurer to receive all money due to the Society and lodge the same in the bank, and to keep the accounts, make all payments, prepare accounts and balance

sheets, and generally to act under the instructions of the Council. No payment shall be made on behalf of the Society unless it is first authorised by the Council.

- (b) All payments shall be made by cheque signed by the President, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, or any two of them.
- (c) The financial year shall end on 30th June, and an audited balance sheet shall be presented at a meeting of the Society held not later than three months after the Annual General Meeting.
- (d) The accounts of Society shall be audited annually by an Hon. Auditor to be appointed at the Annual General Meeting. No officer of the Council shall be eligible to serve as auditor.

7. DUTIES OF SECRETARIES

- (a) The Hon. Secretary shall arrange the business and keep Minutes of all meetings of the Council, conduct correspondence and generally act under the instructions of the Council.
- (b) The Hon. Membership Secretary shall keep the register of members and conduct correspondence concerning the register, subject to the direction of the Council.
- (c) The Hon. Meeting Secretary shall arrange the business and keep the Minutes of Ordinary and General Meetings of the Society subject to the direction of the Council.

8. PUBLICATIONS

All publications shall be under the control of a publishing committee consisting of the Hon. Editor, Hon. Asst. Editor and Hon. Secretaries, subject to the direction of the council.

9. HON. LIBRARIAN

The council shall appoint an Hon. Librarian, who shall be in control of all the books and publications in the possession of the Society, subject to the direction of the Council.

10. MEMBERSHIP

- (a) There shall be grades of members as follows:-
 - (1) **Ordinary Members** who shall be entitled to full participation in all activities of the Society; to vote; to be elected to office and to receive the publications of the Society.
 - (2) **Country Members** who shall be those residing more than twenty miles from the G.P.O. Perth. They shall be entitled to the same privileges as an Ordinary Member.
 - (3) **Associate Members** when one member of a family is already an Ordinary or Country Member, others of that family over the age of 21 years may become Associate Members. They shall be entitled to full privileges, except for the receipt of the publications.
 - (4) **Junior Members** who shall be under the age of 21 years shall be entitled to full privileges, except voting and election to office.
 - (5) **Honorary Life Members** Honorary Life Membership of the Society may be conferred on selected individuals, by a unanimous recommendation of the Council, and its endorsement by a two thirds majority of those members present at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose. Honorary Life Members shall be entitled to all privileges of Ordinary Members.
- (b) Each candidate for election to membership, except under Rule 10 (a) (5), shall be proposed and seconded in writing, to the Council by two voting members, such applications shall be accompanied by nomination fee and first subscription. Election to membership shall be confirmed or otherwise at the next Council meeting and announced at the following Ordinary Meeting.
- (c) Every member of the Society shall pay such nomination fee and annually such subscription as the Council shall from time to time determine.
- (d) Subscriptions shall be due on the 1st July, or on election. All members shall be considered in arrears when subscriptions are three months overdue. Members in arrears shall not be

entitled to receive the publications or other privileges. Any member in arrears shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Society, but should any member be inadvertently allowed to vote at the meeting in breach of this rule, no motion so carried or otherwise valid shall become invalid. A members right to vote can be contested, under this clause, only by showing proof to the meeting that the member is in arrears.

- (e) Any member may voluntarily resign upon giving the Society notice in writing, paying all dues owing by him and returning in good order all property of the Society for which he is responsible.
- (f) The Council may cancel the membership of any member and such member shall have the right to appeal at the next Ordinary meeting of the Society.

11. RESEARCH SUB-COMMITTEE

There shall be a Research Sub-committee comprising such members as are appointed from time to time by the Council and approved by the C.S.I.R.O.

- (a) The function of the Research Sub-committee shall be to direct the Society's research programme and to recommend expenditures from the research fund.
- (b) Any change in the membership of the Research Sub-committee shall be notified to and approved by the Executive of the C.S.I.R.O.

12. RESEARCH FUND

The Society shall maintain a special account entitled "The Astronomical Society of Western Australia Inc. Scientific Research Fund", for which separate account books shall be kept.

- (a) Donation of \$2.00 and more to the Research Fund may be claimed by donors as deductions for taxation purposes, which claims should quote the full title of the Fund.
- (b) Expenditures from the Research Fund shall be confined to items recommended by the Research Sub-committee and approved by the Council.

13. COUNTRY BRANCHES

- (a) Branches of the Society may be formed in country centres in Western Australia subject to the approval by the council, which shall also have power to terminate a Branch at its discretion.
- (b) Country Branches shall elect their own officers, conduct their own meetings and report to the Society on their activities.
- (c) One quarter of the total annual subscriptions paid by the members of a Branch to the society shall be returned to the Branch to assist in financing its activities.

14. COUNCIL MEETINGS

- (a) Council meetings shall be held as frequently as the business of the Society shall require, and at such dates as the Council shall from time to time appoint. Five members shall constitute a quorum.

15. ORDINARY AND GENERAL MEETINGS

- (a) Ordinary Meetings shall be held on the second Monday of each month, unless otherwise decided by the Council.
- (b) The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held on the second Monday in July for the purpose of receiving the report of the council for the preceding year, the election of officers and the Council for the ensuing year, and any other business which may require the decision of a general meeting. The Treasurer shall submit a general statement of the finances of the society. A quorum shall consist of twelve members.

- (c) A Special General Meeting for any purpose other than for the purpose described in clause 17 may be convened if the Council deem it necessary, or on a requisition to the Hon. Secretary signed by not less than eight members stating the purpose for which it is required. Such Special General Meeting shall be called within one calendar month after the requisition has been received. A quorum shall consist of twelve members.
- (d) Members shall have the privilege of introducing visitors at all meetings of the Society.
- (e) Members shall be notified of all meetings at least five days in advance.

16. CONTROL OF PROCEEDINGS

- (a) The Chairman for the time being shall have complete control of the proceedings of the meetings, and shall decide matters not provided for in the rules.
- (b) The Chairman shall have an ordinary vote and a casting vote if necessary at all meetings.

17. ALTERATION OF RULES

These rules shall not be altered, rescinded, nor added to except by a two thirds majority of those members present at an Annual General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose, and only after such notice of motion for a specific amendment of rules shall have been handed to the Hon. Secretary at least one calendar month before the meeting as specified herein.

18. COMMON SEAL

There shall be two Trustees of the Society who shall also be seal holders. The Trustees shall from time to time be appointed by resolution of a General Meeting and they shall hold office until death, resignation, removal by resolution of a General Meeting or ceasing to be a member of the Society.

The Common Seal of the Society shall be affixed to such deeds, instruments, and documents as the Council shall by resolution decide and shall be so affixed in the presence of one of the Trustees and an elected Officer of Council who shall sign their names as evidence of the due affixing of the Common Seal. If both the Trustees shall for any reason be unable to affix the Common Seal the President or Chairman of Council may by writing certify the fact and he shall thereupon be empowered to affix the Common Seal as if he were a Trustee.

19. DISSOLUTION

On application in writing made to the Council by eight effective members signifying their desire that the Society should be dissolved a Special General Meeting shall be called to consider the question. At such meetings votes by proxy shall be allowed and the votes of at least two thirds of the members voting personally or by proxy shall be necessary to carry the proposition for dissolution.

In the event such resolution being carried, sufficient of the assets of the Society shall be realised to pay all liabilities and any assets remaining shall not be paid to or distributed amongst the members of the Society but shall be given, transferred or paid (a) to a society or institution having objects substantially similar to the objects of the Society and which by its rules prohibits the distribution of its income or property amongst its members; or (b) to a State or Federal observatory or university. The Society, institution, observatory or university shall be determined by the members of the Society at or before the time of dissolution or in default thereof and if and so far as effect cannot be given to such determination then the payment or distribution shall be referred to a Judge of the Supreme Court for his determination.