

Constitution of the Beekeepers' Society of South Australia Inc.

Amendments to the Constitution approved at the Special General Meeting, 2 July 2009

1 Name

The name shall be the Beekeepers' Society of South Australia Incorporated herein after called the 'Society'.

2 Definition

- i) 'Beekeeper' means a person registered with the Department of Primary Industries and Resources SA, to keep bees.
- ii) 'Member' means a member of the Society.
- iii) 'The Act' means the Associations Incorporation Act 1985.
- iv) 'Month' shall mean a calendar month.

3 Objects

The objects of the Society shall be to:

- 3.1 Promote the science of beekeeping.
- 3.2 Improve the standard of beekeeping among beekeepers.
- 3.3 Contribute to the study and knowledge of apiculture.
- 3.4 Support the development of ecological policies and programs which improve conditions for bees and honey production.
- 3.5 Arrange lectures, films, discussions, demonstrations and field days emphasising intelligent observation and the practical handling of bees.
- 3.6 Make available literature and equipment for loan to Members.
- 3.7 Advise Members in the acquisition of suitable apiculture equipment and literature.

4 Powers of the Society

- 4.1 The society shall have all the powers conferred by section 25 of the Act.

5 Membership

- 5.1 Application for membership shall be on the form prescribed from time to time by the Management Committee. Membership shall be deemed conferred on payment of the prescribed due to the Society. Members shall pay an annual subscription fee. Membership shall be open to persons in the following categories:
 - 5.2 Member – any registered beekeeper.
 - 5.3 Life member – any person who by virtue of long and distinguished service to the Society, or by distinguished service to apiculture, may be granted Life Membership is proposed by notice of motion signed by two Members delivered to the Secretary of the Society at least six weeks before the next Annual General Meeting. The notice of motion shall be considered by the Management Committee prior to the Annual General Meeting, and if no objections to it are raised, it shall be introduced to the Annual General Meeting by its proposers. If carried by a majority of Members present and entitled to vote, Life Membership shall be conferred forthwith on the person proposed. A Life Member shall be exempt from the requirements of Clause 6.2.

- 5.4 Honorary Member – Honorary membership may be confirmed on any person nominated by the President or management Committee and ratified by the Society in a General Meeting. A person may be granted Honorary Membership for one year only.
- 5.5 Associate Member – Any person who does not qualify under the other categories of membership. An Associate member shall comply with the requirements of Clause 6.2.
- 5.6 Register of members – A register of members must be kept and contain:
i) the name and address of each member
ii) the date on which each member was admitted to the society
iii) the category of membership, and
iv) if applicable, the date of and reason(s) for termination of membership.
- 5.7 Resignations – A member may resign from membership of the society by giving written notice to the secretary or public officer of the society. Any resigning member shall be liable for any outstanding subscriptions which may be recovered as a debt due to the society.

6 Membership fees

- 6.1 Annual membership fees shall be fixed at the April General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose.
- 6.2 Annual membership fees shall be due and payable on the first day of July each year.
- 6.3 A person shall cease to be a Member if he/she fails to pay the annual membership fee before the Annual General Meeting is declared open. He/she may rejoin the Society provided the full membership fee is paid on or before 31 December of the same year.

7 Meetings

- 7.1 The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held in August each year. At least ten days' notice of the meeting shall be given to each member, but accidental omission to give such notice shall not invalidate the meeting.
- 7.2 The Society shall hold a General Meeting each month except January.
- 7.3 Other General Meetings of the Society shall be held as determined by the Management Committee.
- 7.4 The Management Committee may convene a Special General Meeting upon receiving a written request to do so by at least ten Members. The request shall state the purpose of such meeting and the meeting shall be held within 28 days of delivery of the request to the Secretary. At least ten days' notice of a Special General Meeting shall be given to each member by pre-paid letter posted to his/her last known address, but accidental omission to give notice to any Member shall not invalidate the meeting.

8 Conduct of Meetings – Standing Orders

- 8.1 All Meetings of the Society and its Management Committee shall be conducted in accordance with Standing Orders as prescribed by the Management Committee from time to time.
- 8.2 A record of Standing Orders, amended to date, shall be at every General, Special General and Annual General Meeting of the Society.

8 Voting rights

- 9.1 Each member other than an Honorary Member, shall be entitled to one vote at all meetings of the Society.
- 9.2 A member shall be entitled to appoint in writing a natural person who is also a member of the society to be their proxy, and attend and vote at any meeting of the society.

10 Elections

- 10.1 All offices shall be declared vacant at the Annual General Meeting. Elections shall be by secret ballot. A simple majority voting system shall be used. Any equality in voting shall be resolved in favour of the retiring candidate (if any) or otherwise by lot. Nominations for all positions may be made either orally or in writing at the Annual General Meeting.

11 Quorums

- 11.1 Quorum at General, Special General and Annual General Meetings shall be twenty Members or one fifth of the total voting membership, whichever is smaller.
- 11.2 Quorum at Management Committee meetings shall be five Members, one of whom must be either the President or the Secretary.

12 Management

- 12.1 The management of the Society shall be vested in a Management Committee, responsible for the administration and finances of the Society and elected by and from Members (other than Honorary Members) of the Society at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose.
- 12.2 The Management Committee shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and four other Members.
- 12.3 The Management Committee shall have power to co-opt up to two further Members, and may fill casual vacancies.
- 12.4 The position of any member of the Management Committee who is absent from three consecutive meetings whether General or Committee, without leave of absence shall become vacant. Acceptance of an apology shall be deemed granting of such leave.
- 12.5 The Society or the Management Committee may appoint sub-committees at a General, Special General or Annual General Meeting. The President shall ex-officio be a member of all such sub-committees. Membership of sub-committees need not be confined to Members of the Society.
- 12.6 The Management Committee shall be responsible to the Society for the efficient management of the Society's affairs and shall present, through the President, an Annual Report of the affairs of the Society to each Annual General Meeting.
- 12.7 A summary of proceedings at each Management Committee meeting shall be verbally reported to the next General Meeting of the Society.
- 12.8 The Management Committee shall meet no less than four times in each financial year.
- 12.9 The Management Committee may make such Rules as it considers necessary for the efficient management of the Society's affairs and effective discharge of its responsibilities as provided for in this Constitution. All Rules made by the Management Committee shall be ratified by the Society in a General Meeting and no Rule shall have effect until it is so ratified.

- 12.10 A record of Rules, amended to date, shall be at every General Meeting of the Society.
- 12.11 Honorariums may be made payable to officers elected to the positions of President, Secretary, Treasurer and the Editor of the Buzzword magazine.
The amount payable for honorariums is to be ratified at the Annual General Meeting each year, with payments to be made payable by cheque on the first Thursday of June in the following year.
- 12.12 The position of Public Officer is to be ratified by the Management Committee at the first Committee meeting after the Annual General Meeting.

13 Finance

- 13.1 The financial year of the Society shall end on 30 June.
- 13.2 An Auditor shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting of the Society.
- 13.3 The books of accounts shall be balanced and audited as soon as practicable after the end of the financial year of the Society, and in any case before the Annual General Meeting. The audit shall include the Society's movable assets.
- 13.4 The Treasurer shall present at each Annual General Meeting a financial statement certified by the Auditor.
The Treasurer shall maintain a register of the assets of the Society.
- 13.5 No expenditure greater than \$200.00 in any one month shall be incurred without the prior approval of members at a General Meeting.
- 13.6 All moneys received shall be deposited in the Society's bank account as soon as practicable thereafter, and all payments from the bank account shall be authorised by any two of the President, Secretary and Treasurer.
- 13.7 All income and property of the Society shall be applied solely towards the objects of the Society and no portion thereof shall be transferred to or paid to any Member of the Society or relatives of Members by way of bonus, dividend or otherwise howsoever by way of profit, provided that nothing shall prevent the payment on good faith of remuneration to any Member of, or person co-opted by, the Society for any services rendered to the Society or any rental paid by the Society for any Member for the use of premises rented by the Society.

14 Expulsion and suspension from membership

- 14.1 Any Member may be expelled, or suspended from membership at the discretion of the Management Committee, provided that such a Member shall be advised of the allegations and have the right of appeal to a Special General Meeting.
- 14.2 The Management Committee shall give at least 14 days' notice in writing of its intention to consider a motion to suspend the membership of, or expel that Member. The notice shall detail all allegations made against the Member and shall invite the Member to attend before the Management Committee at the time appointed for consideration of the said motion to answer the allegations.
- 14.3 Voting on a motion of suspension or expulsion, or on an appeal therefrom, shall be by a simple majority.

15 Interpretation of the Constitution

- 15.1 The Management Committee shall rule on the application of any clause of this Constitution. Any dissension to a ruling shall be decided by a vote of a General Meeting, whose decision shall be final and conclusive.

16 Amendment of the Constitution

- 16.1 The Constitution may be amended by a three-fourths majority at a Special General or Annual General Meeting, provided 21 days' notice of the proposed amendment has been give to all Members.

17 Dissolution

- 17.1 If at any Special General or Annual General Meeting of the Society, a resolution, previously subject to a notice of motion for the dissolution of the Society, shall be carried by a three-fourths majority to the Members present and entitled to vote, and such resolution confirmed by a three-fifths majority of the Members present and entitled to vote at a Special General or Annual General Meeting held not less the 28 days later and called for this purpose, then the Management Committee shall proceed to dissolve the affairs of the Society. After the discharge of all liabilities, the assets of the Society are to be distributed to any Society or Association specifically formed to take over from this Society or to a South Australian Institution carrying out scientific research or training in apiculture. Upon such distribution, the Society shall be dissolved.