

# THE 2011 CONSTITUTION

1. **Name:** The Society shall be known as: **THE BRITISH SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIAN PHILATELY.**

2. **Objects:**

The objects of the Society shall be to foster interest in, and promote the study of, all aspects of Australian philately by:

- (a) Holding meetings in accordance with a published programme.
- (b) Encouraging the formation of study circles and the forming of regional sections.
- (c) Publishing the results of members' research, items of interest, and dealing with members' philatelic enquiries
- (d) Maintaining a library of books, periodicals and publishing an index of articles of Australian philatelic interest.
- (e) Offering an expert philatelic consultancy.
- (f) Circulating exchange packets among members of the Society in the United Kingdom.
- (g) Holding auctions of members' philatelic material.
- (h) Procuring philatelic accessories and publications for sale to members on a non -profit basis.
- (i) Supporting Regional and National events at the discretion of the Council for the promotion of the Society.

3. **Membership:**

**(a) Application:**

Application for membership must be made on the Society's form and may be referred to the Council, who shall have the right to accept or refuse any application.

**(b) Subscriptions:**

The annual subscription, being such sum as the Council shall from time to time determine in the light of the Society's financial position and thereafter be approved at the next A.G.M. or E.G.M., is payable in advance and shall become due on the 1st. January each year. Those members renewing their subscription before January 31st in the year due shall be entitled to a discount which shall be determined by the Council whenever annual subscriptions are reviewed.

Members joining between 1st. October and 31st. December shall pay a full year's subscription which will cover the period until 31st. December of the year following that in which they joined.

**(c) Entrance Fee:**

The entrance fee shall be such amount as the Council shall from time to time determine and thereafter be approved at the next A.G.M. or E.G.M..

**(d) Honorary Membership:**

Honorary membership may be granted to such persons as the Council shall determine.

**(e) Termination of Membership:**

The Council may terminate the membership of any person whose subscription has not been paid by the first day of April in any year.

**(f) Restoration of Membership:**

Ex - members who have been excluded under Rule 3(e) above may be reinstated without reference to the Council, upon payment of the entrance fee and the subscription at the current rate.

**(g)** If the Council at any time shall be of the opinion that the interests of the Society so require they may, by letter invite any member to resign from the Society within a time specified in such letter, and in default of such member's resignation submit the question of their continued membership to the next meeting of the Council; if thereupon two-thirds of the Council members present shall vote for their exclusion he/she shall thereupon cease to be a member of the Society.

4. **Management:**

The affairs and business of the Society shall be managed by a Council comprising three Officers:- President, Secretary and Treasurer plus a maximum of nine ordinary members.

**(a) The President:**

shall be appointed by the Council from the total membership as a mark of esteem and will hold

Office normally for a term of two years, the term commencing at the end of the Annual Dinner held in the year of appointment.

The President shall preside at the Annual General Meeting and any Extraordinary General Meeting. Having served as President no member shall be appointed for a second term unless six years have elapsed after the initial term has expired.

**(b) Other Officers and Council Members:**

The Secretary and Treasurer shall serve for three years, but may offer themselves for re-election. Ordinary Council Members shall also serve for three years, one third of whom shall retire each year; but may offer themselves for re-election. Nominations for Secretary, Treasurer, or as an ordinary member of Council shall be invited in "News and Notes" and must be received by the Secretary at least twenty one days before the A.G.M.. Any member nominating another member for office shall confirm that the proposed nominee is able and willing to serve.

**(c) The Chairman :**

The Council shall, at their first meeting held in each year after the Annual General Meeting for that year, appoint a Chairman from one of their number, who shall preside at all Council and General meetings of the Society. The Chairman shall also preside, in the absence of the President, at the Annual General Meeting or any Extraordinary General Meeting.

**(d) Elections:**

The election of Officers and ordinary members of Council shall take place at the Annual General Meeting by show of hands, unless any member present requests that a Ballot be held, in which case the Ballot shall be taken forthwith. The names of persons nominated shall be published in the notice convening the Annual General Meeting which shall be circulated with "News and Notes" issued before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

**(e) Job Holders:**

The Council shall also, at their first Meeting held in each year after the Annual General meeting for that year make appointments for the functions of Editor, Exchange Packet Superintendent, Programme Secretary, Auction Organiser, Librarian, Assistant Librarian, Publications Stockholder Programme Secretary, Publicity Officer, and Promotions Officer. In addition the Council shall have power to appoint Committees and working groups, fill casual vacancies and co-opt members as they deem necessary.

**(f) Quorum:**

At any Council meeting a quorum shall consist of five members, of whom at least one shall be the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer. Any Committee shall consist of at least three members, of whom one shall be the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer.

**5. Meetings:**

**(a) Annual General Meeting:**

The Council shall fix the date of the Annual General Meeting of the Society which shall be held not later than 30th. June each year, such date to be published in the Programme.

Resolutions which members may wish to have considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be sent to the Secretary, in writing, at least three months before the date thereof and will be published in "News and Notes". Members who may wish to discuss a subject under "Any Other Business", which is proper to an Annual General Meeting, should notify the Secretary in writing at least 24 hours before the opening of the Annual General Meeting. A quorum shall consist of 15 members.

**(b) Extra - Ordinary General Meeting:**

The Secretary shall convene an Extra-ordinary General Meeting at the request of the Council, or at the written request of at least ten members sent in writing to the Secretary. Such a request shall state the purpose of the meeting and shall include the wording of any resolution which the members making the request wish to be considered by the meeting. At least 21 days notice of the meeting shall be given, and a quorum shall consist of 15 members.

**(c) General meetings:**

Meetings of members shall be held in London on dates and at venues to be fixed by the Council. Meetings in other parts of the United Kingdom may be held by local arrangement, with prior sanction of the Council, who will defray the expenses incurred thereby, but may fix a limit to that expenditure.

**(d) Convention:**

An Annual Convention shall be arranged by the Council and may be held in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting. The Convention may include the annual philatelic competitions, an auction, the Annual Dinner, the presentation of awards and any other suitable items of interest to members.

**(e) Council Meetings:**

Meetings shall be held as determined by the Council, providing that there are not less than three meetings held in any financial year.

**6. Finance:**

**(a)** The financial year shall run from 1st. January to 31st. December.

**(b)** The Treasurer shall keep proper books of account, which shall be open to inspection by any member of the Council at any time, and shall produce to each Annual General Meeting a statement of Income and Expenditure, and a Balance Sheet, made up to 31st. December preceding the meeting, which accounts shall previously have been audited.

**(c)** An Honorary Auditor, professionally qualified, shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting to hold office until the close of the next following Annual General Meeting, save that a casual vacancy in the office may be filled by the Council.

**(d)** All the assets of the Society shall be vested in the Council for the time being as trustees, who shall take reasonable care of them, including adequate insurance, but shall otherwise be exempt from personal liability.

**7. "The Bulletin:**

**(a)** The official journal of the Society shall be entitled "The Bulletin" and be sent to all members of the Society. It will contain matters of philatelic interest relevant to the objects of the Society.

**(b)** It shall be under the direction of the Editor, but matters included shall be subject to the overall control of the Council.

**(c)** Within "The Bulletin" the Editor will prepare "News and Notes" containing: an Open Letter from the Secretary; reports of meetings; additions to the Library where such have been made, and any other matters relevant to the business of the Society. Matter included shall be subject to the control of the Editor. If there is any uncertainty about the inclusion of an item, the decision shall rest with Council.

**8. Library :**

**(a)** A reference and lending library of books shall be maintained by the Society and placed in charge of a Librarian.

**(b)** Periodicals received and held by this Society may be administered by an Assistant Librarian.

**(c)** Details of the operation of the Library facility will be found in Section 1 of the Society Regulations.

**9. Exchange Packets:**

**(a)** Exchange Packets shall be circulated amongst members in accordance with the Exchange Packet Regulations and shall be under the control of an Exchange Packet Superintendent. Details of the operation of the Exchange Packet will be found in Section 2 of the Society Regulations.

## **10. Auctions:**

- (a) Private auctions of philatelic material shall be held by the Society from time to time at the discretion of the Council. Only members of the Society shall be entitled to bid. The Auctions shall be under the control of an Auction Organiser.
- (b) Details of the operation of the Auctions will be found in Section 3 of the Society Regulations.

## **11. Awards:**

The Council may, at their discretion, make awards of either silver or bronze medals, or other awards, for service either to Australian philately or to the Society. An award of the Society Silver Medal shall entitle the recipient also to Honorary Life Membership of the Society.

A recipient of the Society's Silver Medal or of the Tony Brander Trophy, whenever these are awarded, shall be appointed to Fellowship of the Society. Additional appointments to Fellowship of the Society may be made each year by the Council, at their discretion. Recipients of Fellowship may use the letters FBSAP after their name if they so desire. Awards will be announced and presented at the Annual Dinner or at any other meeting as determined by the Council. No award shall be made posthumously.

## **12. Annual Competitions:**

Annual Competitions shall be held by the Society in accordance with Section 4 of the Society Regulations.

## **13. Publications:**

The Council shall, from time to time:

- (a) consider whether the Society will be the publisher and or distributor of any work of research or study undertaken by a member - any member may submit a draft manuscript for consideration;
- (b) obtain printing and or binding estimates, decide upon the quantity and arrange for production;
- (c) determine the sale price structure of any book or monograph to be published by the Society;
- (d) deal with the legal obligations of depositing copies of works published by the Society;
- (e) arrange for ISBN registration of works published by the Society;
- (f) arrange for reviews of works published by the Society to be undertaken in appropriate journals;
- (g) consider entry of any of the Society publications into approved competitions;
- (h) effect the disposal of remaindered works subject to Council approval;

## **14. The Society Regulations:**

The Council shall have the authority to amend or add to any Regulations with immediate effect, such changes to be notified to the membership in the next convenient issue of "The Bulletin".

## **15. Variation and Application of Constitution:**

Any variation of this Constitution may be made only at the Annual General Meeting, or at an Extraordinary General Meeting specially convened for the purpose, and shall take effect from the beginning of the next Society year, unless the meeting fixes some other date upon which the alteration is to become effective. The Chairman of the meeting, or any fifteen members present at the meeting, may, before the conclusion of the meeting, demand a ballot of all of the members of the Society on a proposal to change the Constitution, and if such a ballot is demanded it shall be taken by post under the direction of the Council within 28 days of the demand, and the result shall be announced in the next convenient issue of "The Bulletin".

**16. Interpretation:**

Any dispute arising from the interpretation of this Constitution or any contingency for which no provisions are made in the Constitution, shall be referred to the Council, whose decision shall be final.

**17. Winding – up of the Society:**

The Society may be dissolved by the consent of three quarters of the members, who shall have replied to a letter sent by the Council to all members proposing the dissolution, such consent being testified by their signature to an instrument of dissolution in a form provided by the Society. If, on the dissolution of the Society, there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, such property shall be disposed of to a charity to be specified in the instrument of dissolution, but so that no member of the Society shall profit individually from such disposal.

This version dated 16 May 2011