



Northern Sydney Astronomical Society Inc.



Rules for the Geoff Welch Literary Competition

PREAMBLE:

The Competition commemorates the life and work of Geoffrey Baldwin Welch. Geoff was an Honours Graduate, a practising engineer, a lecturer, and a professor of civil engineering, as well as the author of over forty research publications, mostly related to concrete construction. He was a valued member of two Astronomy Societies, including NSAS, a member of our editorial committee, and a regular contributor to our newsletter *Reflections*. He passed away in November 1999.

The life of the Competition was extended by a gracious gift from Geoff's widow, Gwen Welch, the original funding having been arranged by Geoff himself.

The Committee sincerely acknowledges these gifts as well as their intention, the main aim of the Competition being to encourage members to write articles for publication in the Society's newsletter *Reflections*.

For the Competition, the period of publication is the interval matching the Society's Financial Year, which runs from 1st October to 30th September next following.

To be published in *Reflections*, articles must relate to Astronomy at an amateur level or to the development of Basic Astronomy.

If published articles satisfy the conditions in these rules, they can be considered for awards.

Three awards of \$50 each are available in each Competition year. A ballot based on the published articles, not on their authors, will decide the top 3 articles published in the Competition period.

The awards to authors will be made subject to the condition that no author may receive more than one award in any given Competition period.

These Rules have been amended whilst still promoting the main aim of the Competition. They replace all previous versions and take effect from 1st September 2015.

The Committee.

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THE GEOFF WELCH LITERARY COMPETITION.



A. GENERAL:

For a contribution to *Reflections* to be considered for a Geoff Welch Literary award:

- (a) It must be related to Astronomy at an amateur level or to the development of Basic Astronomy.
- (b) It must be the original work of one NSAS member who holds current financial membership and who has no backlog of unpaid contributions or other charges.
- (c) It must be substantially the work of that one member and be of a length suitable to be published along with others in one issue of *Reflections*. The consideration of the article's worth will be mainly on the text.
- (d) It must contain clear, complete, and accurate acknowledgement (by name and source) of any direct quotes and of any borrowed major ideas not actually quoted verbatim.
- (e) It must be factually correct. Statements that are clearly identified as the author's own *opinion* or are parts of correctly acknowledged quotes or correctly acknowledged borrowings are automatically exempt from this condition.
- (f) It must have been published in *Reflections* during the Competition period.
- (g) These Rules replace all previous versions and operate from 1st September 2015.

B. ELIGIBILITY, EXCEPTIONS AND CHALLENGES ETC:

- (a) Any author may elect to have any one or more of her/his personal contributions excluded from consideration. The Committee should be notified in writing at least four weeks before judging.
- (b) Any financial member(s) of NSAS may challenge the eligibility of any contributor or contribution provided such challenge is explained in writing, is signed by the objector(s), and is in the hands of the Committee at least four weeks before judging.
- (c) The NSAS Committee has the final decision-making responsibility in matters relating to eligibility and no related correspondence will be entered into. The Committee shall exercise this responsibility, if necessary, before the judging commences.

C. JUDGING, PRIZES and PRESENTATIONS:

- (a) Three awards will be made in each Society year and the publication of the winners in the Society's newsletter *Reflections* will be in alphabetical order of surname.
- (b) An award will consist of an NSAS Award Certificate, a copy of Geoff Welch's book *Humankind and the Cosmos*, and a Society cheque for \$50.
- (c) The Award Certificates will nominate the award in terms such as:
"One of the Best Three Articles published in *Reflections* in the 20xx-xx Financial Year".
- (d) In each Society financial year, judging will occur in September, and will take the form of an online ballot of all financial members of NSAS, conducted by the *Reflections* Editor, and closing at midnight on 30th September. Each member voting will be asked to indicate in her/his opinion the best three eligible **articles** published in the Society's current year, without order of preference. The best three **authors** will be determined by the results of the ballot, subject to the condition that no author may receive more than one award in any one year. The decision of this ballot will be final unless there is a tie as defined in (e).
- (e) In the event of a tie that affects the group of best three **authors**, it will become the Committee's task to resolve the tie. In this case, the Committee's decision will be final and no related correspondence will be entered into.
- (f) The prize winners will be announced, and all associated presentations will be made, at the Society's Annual General Meeting in October.
- (g) The results of the Competition will be published in the next edition of *Reflections*.