

THE NORTHERN DISTRICTS SOCIETY

OF AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

CONSTITUTION

History

21/10/86: Constitution adopted at Annual General Meeting.

10/02/93: Machine-readable form of original Constitution created.

Name: The name of the Society shall be "The Northern Districts Society of Amateur Astronomers", hereinafter referred to as "The Society".

Objects: The objects of the Society shall be:

1. To study and practise the science of astronomy and related subjects by means of meetings, lectures, observing sessions, visits to relevant institutions and similar activities.
2. To take every opportunity to further interest in astronomy, particularly in young people.
3. To practise the art of telescope making and the construction of associated instruments.
4. To co-operate with, and assist Macquarie University in astronomical projects.
5. To undertake, as a long term project, the construction of a relatively large telescope and the associated building.
6. To indulge in such social and fund raising activities as may be from time to time decided upon.

Powers: The Society may undertake such contracts and liabilities, acquire, hold or dispose of such assets, and do all or any other such things as may be necessary, conducive and/or incidental to the purposes of the foregoing objects or any of them.

Membership: The membership of the Society shall consist of:

1. Foundation members, being all those present at the inaugural Annual General Meeting.
2. Any person having an interest in astronomy and/or related subjects.

A member may resign from the Society at any time by giving written notice of such intention to the President.

Membership of the Society may be terminated on a resolution carried by a two-thirds majority of members present at a General Meeting of the Society, and the member concerned shall be notified in writing within fourteen days of such a decision.

Fees: Fees shall consist of an Annual Subscription, the amount of which shall be set each year at the Annual General Meeting. It shall become due and payable at that Meeting. On payment of the Subscription a member shall be deemed a Financial Member of the Society for the twelve months following the Annual General Meeting.

Any member who is unfinancial after the elapse of six calendar months from the Annual General Meeting shall be deemed to have resigned from the Society.

Meetings: A General Meeting of the Society shall be held on the third Tuesday of each month.

An Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held on the third Tuesday of October each year, and all financial members shall be notified in writing fourteen days prior to the date of this meeting. At the Annual General Meeting the Committee of the Society shall be elected and an Honorary Auditor appointed.

A Special General Meeting of the Society may be called at any time by the Committee, and shall be so called on the written request of not less than fifteen financial members. Such meetings shall be called only to attend to specific and/or urgent matters, and the business of the Meeting shall be confined to such matters. Fourteen days' notice in writing of a Special General Meeting shall be given to financial members.

The Committee: Management of the affairs of the Society shall be in the hands of a Committee, consisting of:

President,
Vice President,
Secretary,
Treasurer,
and three ordinary members.

The Committee shall be elected each year from the financial membership of the Society at the Annual General Meeting, and shall hold office for twelve calendar months from that time.

An officer may resign from the Committee at any time by giving notice in writing of such intention to the President.

Casual vacancies in the Committee may be filled by the Committee from the financial membership of the Society.

The Committee shall, subject to the Constitution and to resolutions of the Society in General Meetings, carry on the business of the Society, pursue its Objects and exercise its Powers.

Quora: The quorum for a General Meeting shall be seven financial members.

The quorum for an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting shall be half the financial membership of the Society.

Duties of Officers: The President shall preside as Chairman over all meetings of the Society and of the Committee. He/She shall act as spokesman for the Society in all its dealings with outside persons or organisations, or shall appoint a representative to act in his/her stead.

The vice-President shall, in the absence of the President, carry out such duties as pertain to the office of President.

The Secretary shall take proper minutes of all meetings of the Society and of the Committee. He/She shall receive and file all correspondence addressed to the Society and attend to it in accordance with the wishes of the Society.

The Treasurer shall keep proper books of account, and submit to meetings of the Society or of the Committee such financial statements as are requested by the President. He/She shall submit to the Annual General Meeting a complete and audited statement of the Society's assets and liabilities, together with an account of income and expenditure for the past financial year. He/She shall receive all monies paid to the Society and place them in the name of the Society in such Bank, Building Society or other accounts as are decided upon by the Society. He/She shall pay all such accounts as are passed for payment at a Meeting of the Society or of the Committee.

Profits: Any funds in excess of those required for administrative purposes shall be expended solely upon the Objects of the Society.

Alteration of the Constitution: This Constitution may be altered only by a resolution of the Society in Special General Meeting. This resolution must be passed on the vote of not less than two-thirds of the financial members present and voting.

Winding up: The Society may be wound up at any time by a resolution of the Society in Special General Meeting. This resolution must be passed on the vote of not less than three-quarters of the financial members present and voting.

On the winding up of the Society, its assets shall be sold, and the income therefrom, together with all accrued funds, both in bank and in hand, and after the settlement of all outstanding debts, shall be donated to Macquarie University for the furtherance of work in astronomy.