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RULES

1. NAME
The name of the Association shall be AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS SOCIETY (AUSTRALIA) INCORPORATED.

2. OBJECTS
(1) To further collaboration between Autonomous Member Societies.
(2) To promote all aspects of the horticulture of Australian plants.
(3) To promote the conservation of Australian plants and their habitats
and
(4) To speak with one voice for Member Societies at a national level.

3. POWERS
(1) The Association shall have the following powers to be exercised only when appropriate to its objects.
   (a) To acquire, hold, and dispose of real and personal property;
   (b) To invest any funds in investments authorised for trust funds under any Law in Australia;
   (c) To establish Study Groups appropriate to its objects;
   and
   (d) To do any other thing appropriate to its objects.

4. DEFINITIONS
(1) In these Rules and By-Laws unless the contrary intention appears -
   (a) “Association” means Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) Incorporated.
   (b) “Member Society” means an Autonomous Member Society. A reference to “member” in the Act shall be taken to be a reference to a Member Society.
   (d) “the Territory” means the Australian Capital Territory.
   (e) “the Act” means the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 of the Australian Capital Territory.
   (f) “Delegate” means a delegate referred to in Rule 9.
   (g) “Officer” and “office” means an officer or office referred to in Rule 8.
   (h) The Executive as described in Rule 6(3) shall constitute the committee of the Association for the purposes of the Act. Each Member Society hereby appoints the Executive as its representative on the committee of the Association.
   (i) Council Meetings, Biennial Meetings and Special Meetings as described in Rule 6 shall constitute general meetings for the purposes of the Act.
(2) In these Rules and By-Laws unless the contrary intention appears -
   (a) A word importing the singular includes the plural and vice versa.
   (b) A word importing one gender includes any other gender.
   (c) A reference to a rule or sub-rule is a reference to a rule or sub-rule herein.
5. MEMBERSHIP

(1) Only Associations or bodies referred to in Rule 5(5) may be members of the Association. Members of Member Societies shall not be members of the Association.

(2) The principal rights and duties of a Member Society:
   (a) A Member Society has the following rights -
       (i) To be represented by voting Delegates on Council, at Annual General Meetings, at Special Meetings and at Biennial Meetings
           and
       (ii) To receive the Newsletter.
   (b) A Member Society has the following duties -
       (i) To appoint one Delegate to attend Council Meetings, one Delegate to attend Annual General Meetings and one Delegate to attend Special Meetings
           and
       (ii) To appoint two Delegates to attend Biennial Meetings.

   Any such appointees may appoint proxies under Rule 7(4).

(3) Members of Member Societies may:
   (i) address Biennial Meetings by leave of that particular Meeting, and
   (ii) stand for office.

(4) Member Societies of the Association are -
   Australian Native Plants Society Canberra Region (Inc)
   Australian Plants Society NSW Ltd
   Society for Growing Australian Plants Queensland Region Inc
   Australian Plants Society (South Australian Region) Inc
   Australian Plants Society Tasmania Inc
   Australian Plants Society Victoria Inc
   Wildflower Society of Western Australia (Inc)
   Top End Native Plant Society (Inc)

   None of these Member Societies will lose its membership by reason only of its subsequent legal incorporation or other change in its legal corporate status.

(5) Admission of New Members:
   Membership of the Association shall be open to all bodies with similar objects to those of this Association. Membership shall be obtained by -
   (a) lodging with the Secretary a written application which -
       (i) is signed by the sponsoring Member Society
           and
       (ii) is accompanied by the sponsor’s report on the applicant.
   (b) obtaining the approval of a two-thirds majority of the Delegates at a Council Meeting, Annual General Meeting, Special Meeting or Biennial Meeting
and
(c) payment of the prescribed fee - see Rule 11.

(6) Resignation of Member Societies:
Provided there are no outstanding membership fees due by the Member Society, a Member Society may resign by giving notice in writing to the Secretary.

(7) Expulsion of Member Societies:
(a) A Member Society may be expelled or called upon to resign if it
   (i) is unfinancial after notice has been given in accordance with Rule 11(3)(d)
   (ii) has committed or been knowingly concerned in an act to bring discredit to the Association
   or
   (iii) is considered by Council to have acted not in the best interests of the Association.
(b) A Member Society shall be expelled on a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of the Delegates at a Council Meeting, Annual General Meeting, Special Meeting or Biennial Meeting.
(c) The Member Society concerned must be notified in writing at least 90 days before such a motion is to be considered. This notice shall -
   (i) set out the grounds on which the motion for expulsion is based
   and
   (ii) inform the Member Society that it may submit written representation to the Secretary within 21 days.
(d) Subject to section 50 of the Act, the Council Meeting, Annual General Meeting, Special Meeting or Biennial Meeting mentioned in sub-rule (b) shall -
   (i) give to the Member Society under notice of expulsion an opportunity to make oral representations
   and
   (ii) give due consideration to any oral representations made and any written representations submitted to the Secretary in accordance with sub-rule (c)(ii).

(8) Such resignation or expulsion shall not prejudice the right of the Association to recover from the Member Society any monies owing by it to the Association or property of the Association held by it at the time of its resignation or expulsion.

6. MEETINGS - SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS
The Association shall have the following meetings:

(1) Biennial Meeting
(a) The ordinary business shall include
   (i) minutes of the previous Biennial Meeting
   (ii) presentation of Council’s report and other reports
   (iv) election of office bearers
   (v) appointment of Public Officer
   (vi) selection of the Member Society to host and organise the next Biennial Meeting.
(b) It shall comprise the Officers, and two Delegates from each Member Society.
(c) It shall be held every two calendar years. (See Rule 7(1)(a) for the required notice.)

(2) **Council Meeting**

(a) The business shall include

(i) minutes of the previous Council Meeting
(ii) reports from the Executive, including all its decisions since the last Council Meeting
(iii) financial reports
(iv) changes to the By-Laws
(v) policy matters
(vi) appointment of assistants to Officers, Committees and other special appointments
(vii) nominations for office. (See Rule 8(3)(c)(ii).)

(b) It shall comprise the Officers, and one Delegate from each Member Society.
(c) It shall be held

(i) at least once every 12 months
(ii) at least three times between successive Biennial Meetings (one immediately after a Biennial Meeting)

and

(iii) when called by the Secretary at the request of the President or the written request of a majority of its Delegates. (See Rule 7(1)(b) for the required notice.)

(d) A written resolution to a circulated motion signed by a simple majority of all the Delegates shall be as valid as if it had been duly passed in a Council Meeting. The Secretary shall give all Officers, Member Societies and Delegates at least 60 days notice of such a motion. The Secretary may give the notice if requested to do so by a simple majority of all the Delegates but only then PROVIDED THAT the motion cannot be dealt with conveniently or expeditiously by a Council Meeting proper.

(3) **Executive Meeting**

The Executive shall be responsible for day to day administration. At least once every 6 months it shall prepare a Newsletter. It shall comprise the President, Secretary, Treasurer, both Vice-Presidents and the Study Group Coordinator. It shall meet when necessary.

(4) **Special Meeting**

(a) Special Meetings shall be held

(i) when directed by the Executive
(ii) when directed by Council

or

(iii) upon the written request of at least three Member Societies.

The direction or written request must specify the business required to be handled.

(b) The only business at a Special Meeting shall be those matters for which it was called and shall be specified by the Secretary in the notice of meeting. (See Rule 7(1)(c).)

(c) It shall comprise the Officers, and one Delegate from each Member Society.

(5) **Annual General Meeting**
(a) With the exception of the first, the Annual General Meeting shall be held by 30th November each year.
(b) The Association shall hold its first Annual General Meeting by 30 June 1993.
(c) Sub-rules (a) and (b) have effect subject to the powers of the Registrar of Incorporated Associations under Section 120 of the Act in relation to extensions of time.
(d) The Annual General Meeting shall, subject to the Act, be convened on such date and at such place and time as the Executive thinks fit.
(e) In addition to any other business which may be transacted, the business of the Annual General Meeting shall be -
   (i) to confirm the minutes of the last preceding Annual General Meeting.
   and
   (ii) to receive and consider the statement of accounts and the reports that are required to be submitted to members pursuant to sub-section 73(1) of the Act.
(f) It shall comprise the Officers, and one Delegate from each Member Society.

7. MEETINGS - TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

   (1) Notices:
   (a) Notice (including notice of agendas) shall be given in writing to each Officer, each Member Society and each Delegate by the Secretary as follows -
      (i) for Biennial Meetings - 60 days beforehand
      (ii) for Council Meetings - 60 days beforehand
      (iii) for Special Meetings - 30 days beforehand.
      (iv) for Annual General Meetings - 60 days beforehand.
   (b) Notice for Executive Meetings may be given by the Secretary orally or in writing to each Officer at any time.
   (c) Notices to a Delegate may be sent care of the Secretary of the relevant Member Society if the Delegate’s name or address is unknown.

   (2) Quorums:
   At all Meetings except Executive Meetings the quorum shall be a simple majority of Delegates entitled to attend. (A person attending a meeting as proxy for more than one Delegate counts for one only in making up a quorum.) The quorum for an Executive Meeting shall be three, one of whom must be the Secretary or the President.

   (3) Voting:
   (a) At any meeting other than an Executive Meeting only Delegates shall vote.
   (b) At any meeting
      (i) a motion shall be passed by a simple majority [except those motions referred to in (c) of this Rule or in Rule 14 (1)]
      (ii) the Chairman shall not exercise a casting vote
      (iii) a motion shall be lost on a tied vote.
   (c) For the following motions to be passed a two-thirds majority is required -
      (i) admission of a new Member Society
(ii) expulsion of a Member Society

(4) **Proxies:**

Any Officer or Delegate who is unable to attend a meeting or do anything required of him may, by notice in writing to the Secretary, appoint a proxy to attend to that meeting or do that thing in his stead, but this does not apply to Executive Meetings or anything to do with Executive duties.

(5) **Minutes:**

The Secretary shall prepare minutes of all Biennial Meetings, Annual General Meetings, Council Meetings, and Special Meetings. He shall send a copy of such minutes to all participants and Member Societies within 60 days of the meeting.

(6) **Means of Communication:**

The Delegates and Officers may meet for the purposes of Council Meetings, Executive Meetings, Special Meetings and Annual General Meetings, either in person or by telephone or by other means of communication by which all Delegates and Officers participating in the meeting are able to hear and be heard by all other participants. A meeting conducted by telephone or other means of communication is deemed to be held at the place agreed upon by the Delegates and Officers attending the meeting, provided that at least one of those persons present at the meeting was at that place for the duration of the meeting.

8. **OFFICERS**

(1) **Officers:**

The Officers of the Association shall be -

(a) A President who shall normally preside at all meetings. He shall be responsible for overseeing all aspects of the Association’s business.

(b) Two Vice-Presidents, one of whom shall perform the duties of the President in his absence.

(c) A Secretary who shall perform the secretarial work of the Association including correspondence, sending notices of meetings and other duties laid on him by the Executive, the Council, the Annual General Meeting, any Special Meeting, or the Biennial Meeting.

(d) A Treasurer who shall manage the financial affairs of the Association in accordance with his duties particularised in Rule 11.

(e) The Study Group Coordinator who shall coordinate the running of the Study Groups in accordance with By-Laws.

(2) **Elections:**

These shall be held for each office at Biennial Meetings. All Officers shall retire at each Biennial Meeting but shall be eligible for re-election PROVIDED THAT the President serves for no more than two successive terms, and that no person serves on the Executive for more than three successive terms.

(3) **Nominations:**

(a) Nominations for office must be drawn from members of Member Societies.

(b) They must be accompanied by the nominee’s signed undertaking to serve in the particular office

(c) They must be

   (i) in writing signed by any two members of a Member Society and lodged with the Secretary at least 60 days before the Biennial Meeting,
or
(ii) failing (i) in respect of any office, in writing signed by the Secretary, approved by the Council, sent to all Member Societies and each of their Delegates at least 30 days before the Biennial Meeting,
or
(iii) orally at the general invitation of the returning officer at the Biennial Meeting.

(4) One position only:
No person shall hold more than one office at any time.

(5) Casual Vacancies:
Council may appoint any member of a Member Society to fill a casual vacancy. Council may continue to function despite casual vacancies.

9. DELEGATES
Member Societies may send Delegates to meetings as follows:
(1) Biennial Meeting - two Delegates for each Member Society.
(2) Council Meetings, Annual General Meetings and Special Meetings - one Delegate for each Member Society.

10. PUBLIC OFFICER
(a) At each Biennial Meeting a person resident in the Territory shall be appointed to be the Public Officer, who will perform the relevant duties prescribed in the Act.
(b) If that office becomes vacant at any time, the Executive shall forthwith appoint a substitute person also resident in the Territory.

11. FINANCE
(1) Financial Year:
The financial year of the Association shall end on 30 June.
(2) Membership Fees:
(a) Council shall prescribe annual Association membership fees from time to time for Member Societies.
(b) Fees shall be due and payable by 31 July next following the end of the Member Society’s financial year.
(c) The membership fee for any Member Society shall be in direct proportion to its memberships at the end of the Member Society’s financial year.
(d) A single membership of a Member Society shall include all membership categories including individual membership, family/joint membership, concessional membership, concessional family/joint membership and life membership.
(2A) Liability of Member Societies:
The liability of a Member Society to contribute towards the payment of debts and liabilities of the Association or the costs, charges and expenses of the winding up of the Association is limited to the amount, if any unpaid by the Member Society in respect of membership of the Association as required by Rule 11(2).
(2B) Source of Funds:
The Funds of the Association shall be derived from annual subscriptions of Member Societies, donations and, subject to any resolution passed by the Association in general meeting and subject to section 114 of the Act, other sources as the Executive determines.

(2C) Management of Funds:
Subject to any resolution passed by the Association in general meeting, the funds of the Association shall be used in pursuance of the objects of the Association in such a manner as the Executive determines.

(3) Treasurer's Duties:

(a) He shall from day to day
   (i) collect and receive all monies on behalf of the Association and as soon as possible issue a receipt
   (ii) deposit these as soon as practicable without any deduction whatsoever in either a bank, building society, or credit union approved by the Executive
   (iii) maintain a record of all receipts and payments
   and
   (iv) pay for goods and services authorised by Council or Executive as payment for them becomes due.

(b) He shall from time to time
   (i) present to an Executive Meeting a cash statement and the accounts payable
   and
   (ii) pay all accounts authorised for payment.

(c) He shall annually -
   (i) prepare a statement of income and expenditure
   (ii) prepare a balance sheet
   (iii) arrange for these to be audited
   (iv) prepare a budget for the next year
   (v) present the audited statement and balance sheet and the budget to the Annual General Meeting
   and
   (vi) arrange for all 3 to be published in the next Newsletter.

(d) He shall give written notice to any Member Society whose membership fee is more than 12 months in arrears. If arrears are not then paid within 1 month, he shall refer the matter to the Executive.

(4) Operation of bank and other accounts:
The Association’s accounts shall be operated jointly by any two Association Officers indemnified.

12. AUDIT
Pursuant to the Act, at each Biennial Meeting an Auditor (who is neither the Public Officer nor a member of a Member Society) shall be appointed to audit the Association’s financial affairs.
13. INDEMNITY

Any Officer or Delegate shall be held indemnified by the Association in the execution of his duties or in the incurring of any liabilities authorised by Council except where he is guilty of wilful neglect or default. Any Member Society or member of a Member Society doing anything at the request of the Council shall be likewise indemnified.

14. AMENDMENT OF OBJECTS AND RULES

(1) The objects and rules of the Association may only be amended in accordance with the Act, which requires that a Special Resolution, as defined in section 70 of the Act, be approved by a three-quarters majority at a general meeting.

(2) Notwithstanding Rule 7(1)(c) the Secretary must send notice of any proposed amendment to Member Societies, Officers and Delegates at least 60 days prior to the meeting at which the amendment is to be considered.

(3) The amended Rules must be published either in or as a supplement to the next Newsletter.

15. BY-LAWS

(1) The Council, an Annual General Meeting, a Special Meeting or a Biennial Meeting may (by an ordinary resolution requiring a simple majority) make further By-Laws, or amend existing By-Laws BUT only as appropriate to the Association’s objects.

(2) Notwithstanding Rule 7 (1) (c) the Secretary shall send notice of any proposed further By-Law or any amendment to existing By-Laws to Member Societies, Officers and Delegates at least 60 days prior to the meeting at which it is to be considered.

(3) The changes to the By-Laws must be published either in or as a supplement to the next Newsletter.

16. AUTHORITY TO MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENTS

Only the President or his nominee may make public statements on behalf of the Association.

17. COMMON SEAL

(1) The Association shall have a Common Seal on which its name shall be inscribed.

(2) The President, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, shall be ex-officio Seal witnesses.

(3) The Seal shall be used only on the authority of the Council.

(4) Every stamping of the Seal shall be witnessed by two Seal witnesses who shall subscribe their names to the following certificate:

“The Common Seal of the Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) Incorporated was fixed hereto by the authority of the Council in the presence of .......... ....... and .....................”

(5) The Seal shall remain in the custody of the Secretary.

18. WINDING UP

(1) The Association may be wound up in accordance with the Act.

(2) If, upon the winding-up of the Association (other than for the purpose of reconstruction or amalgamation) there remain any surplus assets, they shall be donated to such other non-profit organisations as resolved by a four-fifths majority of the Delegates at a Special Meeting called to consider the question. Any such organisation must prohibit by its rules the transfer of assets by way of profit to its Member Societies.

19. CUSTODY OF BOOKS
Subject to the Act, the Regulations and these Rules, the Secretary shall keep in his or her control all records, and other documents relating to the Association.

20. INSPECTION OF BOOKS

The records, books and other documents of the Association shall be open to inspection by members of Member Societies free of charge at a place nominated by the Secretary and at a time arranged with the Secretary.

* * * * * * * *

Last amended at ANPSA Council Meeting 24 March 2015
BY-LAWS

I. COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS
   
   (1) Council shall appoint from among the members of Member Societies -
   
      (a) a Newsletter Editor
   
      (b) two Australian Cultivar Registration Authority Representatives
   
      and as it considers necessary for the efficient conduct of the Association’s affairs,
   
      (c) any committees
   
      (d) any assistants to Officers
   
      (e) persons for any other special functions that it considers necessary for the efficient
   
      conduct of the Association’s affairs.
   
   (2) All Council appointments pursuant to (1) shall cease at the next Biennial Meeting. Outgoing
   
      appointees shall be eligible for reappointment.
   
   (3) Each Council appointee and Council committee shall submit a report to each Council Meeting
   
      and the Biennial Meeting covering his or its activities.

II. NEWSLETTER
   
   (1) The Executive shall be responsible for the preparation of a Newsletter at least every 6 months
   
      and for its circulation to all Officers, Member Societies, Delegates and the Public Officer.
   
   (2) It shall contain a Report by the Executive, other Association news, all items submitted by the
   
      Executive and other material of relevance.
   
   (3) The Newsletter Editor shall be responsible for its preparation and publication.

III. STUDY GROUPS
   
   (1) A Study Group shall consist of individual members of Member Societies, Member Societies,
   
      local groups and branches. All individual members of a study group must be a member of one
   
      of the Member Societies.
   
   (2) The work of a Study Group will involve studying some aspects of Australian plants.
   
   (3) A Study Group Leader will undertake the organization and management of a Study Group,
   
      and will be appointed by the Study Group Coordinator after approval by Council or Executive.
   
   (4) A Study Group Leader is expected to provide a newsletter on at least a six-monthly basis,
   
      outlining the activities of the Study Group, and an Annual Financial Report to the Association
   
      through the Study Group Coordinator. If this is not adhered to, the Study Group should be
   
      disbanded or a new Leader appointed at the discretion of the Study Group Coordinator and
   
      that members of the Study Group be informed.
   
   (5) The assets of the Study Group are invested in the Association and held by the Study Groups
   
      on behalf of the Association.
   
   (6) The finances of a Study Group shall be operated by the Study Group Leader who shall open
   
      an account in the Study Group name with an approved financial institution. Such account shall
   
      have two signatories, with either one to sign. The Study Group Coordinator must be advised
   
      of the name and address of the financial institution where the Study Group account is held,
   
      the account number and the names and addresses of the two signatories.
   
   (7) At the end of each membership year, the Study Group Leader shall arrange for the auditing of
   
      the Study Group finances by an independent person or persons, who may be a member or
   
      members of the Study Group, but not an office bearer or associated with an office bearer.
(8) Leaders should require applicants for membership or renewal of membership to state their Region, their Membership Number if allocated and the expiry date of Region membership.

(9) The Study Group Liaison Officer, appointed by a Member Society, should be recognised by the Association as the liaison officer between the Study Group Coordinator, the Member Society and the membership of the Society.

(10) At the end of each financial year, a Study Group Leader shall provide a report on activities and an updated membership list to the Study Group Coordinator.

(11) In the event of resignation, dismissal, incapacitation or death of a Study Group Leader, the Study Group financial account shall be closed and the balance of funds returned to ANPS(A) through the Study Group Coordinator.

IV. STUDY GROUP COORDINATOR

The Study Group Coordinator shall:

(1) Supply information regarding the formation and running of Study Groups to prospective Leaders.

(2) In consultation with Executive or Council appoint Study Group Leaders, who shall be accountable to the Council.

(3) Notify Member Societies’ Editors, the Newsletter Editor and the Editor of “Australian Plants” of the existence of newly-formed Study Groups.

(4) Pay any reasonable membership fee on behalf of the Association to each Study Group requiring such a fee.

(5) Receive submissions for further funding from Study Group Leaders, and bring these to Executive or Council Meetings for discussion and decision.

(6) Report back to Study Group Leaders on the results of said submissions.

(7) At least once a year inform Council, Member Societies, the Newsletter Editor and the Editor of “Australian Plants” of the present state of Study Group activities.

(8) At least twice a year contact all Study Group Leaders via a Newsletter and

(9) Ensure that the National Library receives copies of all Study Group Newsletters.

V. AUSTRALIAN CULTIVAR REGISTRATION AUTHORITY (ACRA) REPRESENTATIVES

The ACRA Representatives shall:

(1) Attend all ACRA meetings

(2) Report to the next Council meeting following any such ACRA meeting.

VI. AUSTRALIAN PLANTS AWARD

(1) The Association shall sponsor an Award known as the Australian Plants Award which shall:

(a) be administered by the Australian Plants Award Committee comprising the President and both Vice-Presidents

(b) be made to persons whom the Committee considers to have made an outstanding contribution to the knowledge of Australian Plants in the following categories:-
(i) the contribution has been made by the recipient in the course of a notable professional career in a natural science field;

(ii) the contribution has been made by the recipient through primarily amateur or voluntary work or interest in Australian plants.

(c) take the form of a medallion inscribed with the recipient's name and the year of presentation together with a relevant citation

and

(d) normally be presented in conjunction with the Biennial Meeting, but it may be presented at any time and place determined by the Committee. In the event that two recipients are chosen, the presentations need not be held either at the same time or at the same place.

(2) There shall be no restrictions on nominees for the Award in terms of either nationality, residence, membership of the Association, or the nature of the contribution for which the Award is being presented. However a previous Award winner may not be nominated.

(3) In any one biennium, there shall only be only one recipient chosen in each category, but under exceptional circumstances, there may be two or none chosen in either category.

(4) The Committee shall within 6 months following the Biennial Meeting ask each Member Society for not more than one nomination in either or both categories. Nominations, with supporting arguments, are to be in the hands of the Australian Plants Award Committee no later than 15 months after the Biennial Meeting.

(5) The Committee shall ensure that there is adequate publicity concerning the presentation of the Award, the recipient, his contribution and its significance, and where applicable, the A. J. Swaby Address. (See By-Law VII)

VII. A. J. SWABY ADDRESS

(1) The Association shall conduct the “A. J. Swaby Address” which shall be administered by the A. J. Swaby Address Committee, comprising the President and both Vice-Presidents.

(2) The Committee shall:

(a) select the speaker

(b) arrange a title with the speaker

(c) arrange a venue and date for the address

(d) advise the speaker when inviting him to speak that the Association reserves the right to publish his address within 6 months of its delivery

and

(e) publicise the event.

(3) In any one biennium, there shall be only one address.

* * * * * * * * * *

Last amended at ANPSA Council Meeting 24 March 2015.