

## THE AISLING SOCIETY OF SYDNEY

### CONSTITUTION

1. The Society shall be styled "The Aisling Society of Sydney". The words "Irish Australian Cultural Society" may be used in conjunction with the title in circumstances where explanation of the nature of the Society's activities would appear necessary or desirable.
2. The objects of the Society shall be:
  - (a) The promotion of cultural relationships between Australia and Ireland.
  - (b) The fostering of the study of the history, life and culture of Ireland.
  - (c) The study of the effect of our Irish heritage on Australian life.
3. For the purposes of carrying out its objects the Society may:
  - (a) undertake the compilation of authentic records of Australian-Irish relationships;
  - (b) undertake the collection of books, records, manuscripts and relics;
  - (c) promote lectures, readings and discussions and the exchange of information relating to the history, language, literature, art, music, song, drama and dancing of Ireland;
  - (d) publish a Journal containing the proceedings of the Society, papers, and other contributions and records;
  - (e) establish branches;
  - (f) affiliate with other Societies with similar objects in whole or in part;
  - (g) carry out such other activities as the Council of the Society may from time to time determine.
4. The Society shall carry on its activities at such place or places as the Council may from time to time consider suitable.
5. Members who joined the Society and paid their first subscription on or before 31st March, 1955, are the "Foundation Members". They are hereafter included

in the term "Members" unless otherwise excluded.

6. Intending members shall be nominated by a financial member and proposed for election at the next meeting of the Council provided that they have attended two ordinary meetings of the Society. The Council shall have power to accept or reject any candidate for membership and to refuse to renew the membership of any person without assigning any reason therefor.
7. The rights and liabilities of Members shall continue only whilst such Members are financial and are not transferable and terminate when Membership is discontinued. A person whose subscription has not been renewed by the thirty-first day of May in any year shall be deemed not to be financial.
8. Members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all General Meetings of the Society, to be elected to the Council, and to introduce friends as visitors to Ordinary Meetings of the Society.
9. The Officers of the Society shall consist of a President (who shall hold office for not more than three years continuously), three Vice-Presidents, an Honorary Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer, an Honorary Librarian and an Honorary Publicity Officer. The foregoing Officers with six other Members of the Society shall constitute the Council of the Society. Members of the Council (other than members of the first Council) shall be elected by ballot of the members at the Annual General Meeting and they shall take office immediately after the election. No person shall nominate or be nominated for Council unless he or she has been a member of the Society for at least one year.
10. The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held in or about the month of February in each year. Financial Members are to be notified by the Honorary Secretary of the time and place of this Meeting at which only Financial Members shall be entitled to vote. At this meeting twenty Members or one-fifth of the Financial Members (whichever number is the lesser), shall constitute a quorum.

11. The General Management of the affairs of the Society shall be vested in the Council, five of the Members of which shall form a quorum.
  
12. The Council shall have power:
  - (a) to call Meetings of the Society and to cancel any such Meeting should it seem fit;
  - (b) to fill casual vacancies in the Council, including officers;
  - (c) to replace any Councillor absent for three consecutive Meetings without approved excuse;
  - (d) to appoint, disband, reconstitute and amalgamate sub-committees as necessary, to make recommendations to the Council with regard to the activities of the Society relating to the history, language, literature, art, music, song, drama, dancing of Ireland and other matters of Irish culture, and to the social activities of the Society. Members of such sub-committees need not necessarily be members of the Society and the President, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer shall be ex officio members of all such sub-committees;
  - (e) to manage and control the expenditure of the Society;
  - (f) to appoint from time to time any person or persons as advisers to the Council and to terminate any such appointment;
  - (g) to co-opt any person, whether or not a member of the Society, to the Council for such purposes as the Council may deem expedient;
  - (h) to enter into any arrangement for the printing and publishing of the Journal of the Society;
  - (i) to draw up the programme of the activities of the Society and to amend such programme as from time to time may seem necessary;
  - (j) to arrange social meetings of the Society;
  - (k) in general, to do all other acts and things which it may consider necessary or desirable in the interests of the Society or to carry out its objects.
  
13. Special Meetings of the Society shall be called at the discretion of the Council or on the written requisition of twenty financial Members.

14. The President shall take the Chair at all Meetings of the Council and of the Society. In his or her absence one of the Vice-Presidents shall preside. In the absence of the President and all three Vice-Presidents, a Chairman shall be appointed ad hoc.
15. The financial year shall commence on the 1st day of January and extend to the 31st day of December.
16. An Honorary Auditor shall be appointed after each Annual General Meeting to act in that capacity for the ensuing financial year. At each Annual General Meeting the Honorary Secretary shall present a Report on the previous year's activities and the Honorary Treasurer shall prepare and submit an audited Statement of Receipts and Payments for the previous financial year.
17. Each Member shall pay an Annual Subscription, the amount of which shall be such as the Council may from time to time determine. In the case of first admission to membership after the 1st July in any year, the subscription to the Society for the balance of that year shall be one-half the current annual subscription. For any Meeting or social function of the Society such charge as the Council may fix in the particular case may be made. The Council may, in particular cases, exempt any person from payment of any subscription or other charge.
18. The Honorary Secretary shall keep a list of the names and addresses of all members and a book containing the minutes of all meetings.
19. The Honorary Treasurer shall receive and pay out the moneys of the Society and shall keep an account thereof.
20. A Bank Account shall be opened in the name of the Society and cheques shall be signed by any two of the following officers:

The President, the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer.

Any one of these officers shall be empowered to endorse cheques.

21. Any Member changing his or her address shall notify such change to the Honorary Secretary without delay.
22. The President, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer of the Society for the time being shall hold the property of the Society as Trustees for the use of the Society without prejudice to the control of the Council over the disbursement of the funds and the management of the property of the Society.
23. The Council shall meet for the transaction of business when summonsed by the Secretary or on the requisition of any three Members of the Council.
24. No alteration to these Rules shall be made unless carried at an Ordinary Meeting and confirmed at the next Ordinary Meeting by the vote of at least two-thirds majority of the Financial Members present. Fourteen days notice shall be given to the Honorary Secretary of an intention to propose any such alteration and such notice shall set out the details of the proposed alteration and the Secretary shall give seven days notice of same to Members.
25. In matters not expressly provided for in these Rules, the Council shall have full authority to act.

AS AT AUGUST 2005