The Aborigines Progressive Association

Constitution and Rules

1938

Head Office:
T. & G. Building,
209a Elizabeth Street,
SYDNEY.
The Aborigines Progressive Association

CONSTITUTION AND RULES.

Adopted 24th April, 1938.

President:
J. T. Patten.

Secretary:
W. G. Sherritt

Treasurer:
T. Foster

Committee:
R. McKenzie, C. Charters,
J. Timbrey, Snr. W. Sims.

Auditor:
J. H. Titchen, F.C.A. (Aust.)
33 Macquarie Place, Sydney.

Bankers:
The Commercial Bank of
Australia Limited,
45 Park Street, Sydney.
NAME:

1. The Association formed under this Constitution and Rules shall be known by the title of The Aborigines Progressive Association.

OBJECTS:

2. The objects of the Association are:
   (a) to conduct propaganda for the emancipation and betterment of Aborigines.
   (b) To take all steps which may be necessary to secure full Citizen Rights for Aborigines and repeal of restrictive legislation concerning Aborigines.
   (c) To examine all proposals concerning Aborigines from the point of view of the Aborigines themselves and to formulate policies to place before the Governments of Australia for Aboriginal betterment.
   (d) To print, publish and circulate books, papers, pamphlets and
leaflets to promote the objects of the Association.

(e) To establish branches of the Association in accordance with these Rules.

(f) To collect funds by subscriptions and donations, and to establish a banking account under the control of the Executive Committee of the Association, and to appoint Trustees, and to hold or deal with monies or property vested in the Association, and to apply both capital and income therefrom towards all or any of the objects of the Association as may be determined by the Executive Committee of the Association.

(g) To do all such other lawful acts and things as may promote the objects of the Association as a non-sectarian and non-party-political Association of Aborigines.

(h) To do whatever may be necessary to secure equal education
and opportunity for Aborigines with white persons in the Australian Commonwealth.

MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTION.

3. Any person of Australian Aboriginal blood or descent is eligible for membership of this Association on payment of the Annual Subscription Fee of Two Shillings per member per annum.

4. No person who is not of Aboriginal blood or descent may be a member of the Association.

5. A receipt in the form of a Member's Ticket, to be signed by the Treasurer, shall be handed to every Member.

6. The financial year shall end on the 31st day of December in each year.

7. Any office-bearer or member of the Association who addresses public meetings or writes matter for publication must adhere strictly to the objects as defined in these rules and to the line of policy laid down from time to time by the Executive Committee and by General Meetings of the Association.
8. The Executive Committee shall have power to reprimand any Member deemed guilty of conducting propaganda subversive of the objects of the Association and may suspend such member pending a General Meeting.

9. A General Meeting shall have the power to expel any Member from the Association, provided that, on any motion for expulsion, the Member accused of subversive conduct shall have the right to speak in his own defence.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

10. The Officers of the Association shall be elected by show of hands at the First General Meeting held under these Rules, and thereafter at each Annual General Meeting, but if or when the Membership shall exceed one thousand fully-paid-up members, then the Executive Committee shall take a postal ballot for election of officers and shall appoint a Returning Officer to conduct the said ballot.
11. The officers of the Association shall be elected for the term of one year at Annual General Meetings and shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting after their election. The officers of the Association shall be the President, the Treasurer, and the Secretary.

12. No salaries shall be paid to officers during the first year of the Association's existence, but thereafter a General Meeting may determine salaries to be paid to Officers.

13. The Executive Committee may appoint Honorary or paid Organisers to recruit members and otherwise to conduct propaganda on behalf of the Association, and may appoint Editors of the Association's publications, but such Organisers and Editors shall be responsible to, and subject to control or recall by the Executive Committee; and no person shall be entitled to act as an Organiser or Editor, or use the title of Organiser or Editor on behalf of the Association without written authority signed by the President and Secretary stating the term and conditions of appointment.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

14. The Executive Committee of the Association shall consist of the President, the Treasurer, the Secretary, and four committee members, to be elected at Annual General Meetings. The quorum for an Executive Committee Meeting shall be three. The President shall be Chairman of the Committee, but in the event of his absence, then the Committee shall elect a Chairman pro tem.

15. If any Officer of the Association shall die, or be prevented by illness or absence from carrying out his duties, then the Executive Committee may declare his office vacant, and may appoint an Officer to fill the vacancy until the next General Meeting.

MINUTES.

16. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep proper minutes of all meetings of the Executive Committee and of all General Meetings of the Association.
POWERS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

17. The Executive Committee shall be the governing body of the Association and may act as it thinks fit in the best interests of the Association, subject to such directions as may be given by a General Meeting.

RULES OF PROCEDURE AND DEBATE.

18. At all General Meetings and Executive Committee Meetings, the rules of procedure and debate shall be as defined by the Chairman in accordance with usual parliamentary and club procedure, provided that at any time a member present at any meeting may move special rules of procedure or may move dissent from a Chairman’s ruling.

ACCOUNTS.

19. (a) The Executive Committee shall cause proper accounts to be kept of all moneys received
by and expended on behalf of the Association.

(b) The books of account shall be kept at the Head Office, in charge of the Treasurer, and shall be open to the inspection of members on the written request of any three members made to the Treasurer or to the Executive Committee.

(c) All moneys received by the Treasurer for purposes of the Association, shall be paid forthwith into a bank, to be appointed by the Executive Committee, after having been entered into the books of the Association.

(d) The Treasurer shall keep accounts of all moneys received, and shall submit the same to the Executive Committee, together with the bank pass-book, at each Executive Committee meeting.

(e) All Accounts shall be passed by
the Executive Committee before payment.

(f) Payments of all accounts of more than one pound (£1) shall be made by cheque, signed by the President and the Treasurer, and countersigned by the Secretary, provided that, in the absence or illness of any officer, the Executive Committee may appoint one of its members to sign cheques in lieu of him.

(g) At the Annual General Meeting in each year, the Executive Committee shall lay before the General Meeting a duly audited statement of the income and expenditure of the Association during the preceding year, and an audited balance sheet for the same period, containing a summary of the property and liabilities of the Association. Every such statement shall be accompanied by a written or printed report of the Executive Committee as to the state and
condition of the Association and its operations for the year just ended.

AUDIT.

20. At the First General Meeting of the Association under these Rules, one or more auditors shall be elected for the ensuing year, and auditors shall be elected annually thereafter at each Annual General Meeting. The auditor or auditors shall be eligible for re-election. Their remuneration shall be fixed by the Executive Committee.

TRUSTEES.

21. Should the assets of the Association at any time exceed one hundred pounds (£100), the Executive Committee shall elect three Trustees, not necessarily persons of Aboriginal blood, and the property of the Association shall be vested in such Trustees, who shall deal with the property so vested in them as the Executive Committee shall direct.
ALTERATION OF RULES.

22. The Constitution and Rules of the Association may be altered, added to, or rescinded by an Annual General Meeting, or by a Special General Meeting convened in the same manner as an Annual General Meeting, provided that notice of motion to alter, add to, or rescind rules shall be given in writing to the Secretary five weeks clear before the date of such General Meeting.

GENERAL MEETINGS.

23. The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held in February or March of each year at such times or places as the Executive Committee may appoint.

24. All Financial Members of the Association shall be entitled to attend the Annual General Meeting, and any Special General Meeting, on showing their members' tickets. The quorum at a General Meeting shall be twelve.

25. There shall be a business sheet at all General Meetings and all resolutions
to appear thereon must be forwarded in
writing to the Secretary at least five
weeks before the date of the General
Meeting. No business, except such as
may be deemed by resolution of the
General Meeting a matter of urgency,
shall be considered by the General Meet­
ing unless such previous notice is given
in writing.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS.

26. The Executive Committee may, at
any time of its own discretion, and shall
at any time on a written request sign­
ed by not less than fifty fully-paid up
members, convene a Special General
Meeting to deal with extraordinary busi­
ness. Any such requisition for a Special
General Meeting must specify in writing,
the purpose for which the Special
General Meeting is to be convened.

NOTICE OF GENERAL
MEETINGS.

27. Notices of Ordinary or Special
General Meetings shall be sent to all
members by post, and the Secretary shall cause to be kept a register containing the names and addresses of all members for the purpose of sending such notices by post. Notices of General Meetings must be posted at least three weeks prior to the date fixed for the Meeting, and must specify the place, the date, the hour, and the nature of business at such Meeting.

HEAD OFFICE.

28. The Head Office of the Association shall be at such place, within the Metropolitan area of Sydney, as may be decided by the Executive Committee and shall be clearly printed or marked on all publications, notices, and documents issued by the Association.

BRANCHES.

29. Branches of the Association may be established in local centres throughout the Commonwealth on approval in writing of the Executive Committee of the Association, but the activities of
such Branches must not be in conflict with the general activities of the Association as defined in these rules.

**CONSTITUTION AND RULES.**

30. Every member of the Association shall be given, if he or she so desires a printed copy of the Constitution and Rules of the Association, or may inspect a copy on application at the Head Office of the Association.