

## **INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHERS**

Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of the Council of the Institute of Australian Geographers held at University House, Canberra ACT February 9-11 1959

### **PRESENT:**

Professor Griffith Taylor (Chairman) Professors R.H. Greenwood, P. Scott, Drs H. Brookfield, K. W. Thomson, A.D. Tweedie.

The Chairman opened this, the first full meeting of the Council and expressed his gratification that the number of professional geographers had increased to such an extent that an Institute could be confidently launched.

### **I REPORT OF SECRETARY/TREASURER**

Dr Thomson reported that the response to the formation of the Institute has been uniformly enthusiastic. Of the 46 Geographers invited to become Foundation Members 42 had accepted and 31 had already paid subscriptions.

The Institute had received from subscriptions £65.11.00. Expenditures on duty stamps, stationery, etc totalled £1.1.2 leaving a balance in the Commonwealth Savings Bank and in cash of £64.9.10.

### **II CONSTITUTION**

Dr Brookfield gave a brief historical introduction covering the attempts by geographers to form a national body in recent years. Prominent figures in these early efforts, were Professors J. Macdonald Holmes and O.H.K. Spate. At the 1954 meeting of ANZAAS an interim committee had been formed. Little was accomplished, however, until four years later when the Adelaide meeting of ANZAAS in August 1958 steps were taken at a General Meeting to bring the Institute into being. At that meeting the present Council was elected and empowered to draw up a Constitution. Dr Brookfield tabled as a working draft a constitution based largely on those of similar organisations, copies of which had been previously distributed to Council Members.

After considerable discussion the Council passed the following Constitution, subsequently to be presented at the next General Meeting for ratification.

**CONSTITUTION OF THE INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIAN  
GEOGRAPHERS**  
**DRAFT CONSTITUTION FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE  
GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN JANUARY, 1960**

## 1. NAME

The name of the association shall be the Institute of Australian Geographers

## 2. OBJECTS

The Objects of the Institute are:

- A. The promotion of the study and discussion of Geography in Australia, especially by the holding of meetings at which the results of research may be presented and discussed, and by such other means as may be deemed expedient. The Institute may undertake or assist the publication of its proceedings and the results of geographical research.
- B. The advancement of Australian Geography internationally.
- C. Co-operation with other organisations having kindred purposes.

## 3. MEMBERSHIP

The Institute should consist of Ordinary and Associate members and such honorary Members as the Council may from time to time elect. Ordinary Members shall be those persons who are members by invitation of the Interim Council at the time of the First General Meeting of the Institute, and thereafter such persons as shall be nominated and seconded by Ordinary Members, and elected by the next subsequent meeting of Council.

Every candidate for election to the status of Ordinary Member shall conform with at least one of the following requirements:

- A. He shall be a full-time member of the academic staff of a University Department of Geography, or
- B. He shall be employed in research or inquiry which, in the opinion of Council, is contributing to the knowledge of the geography of Australia or its neighbouring territories, or
- C. He shall be a person who is regarded by Council as being of eminent standing in Geography or a related field.

The Council shall have the right to invite such eminent persons to become members of the Institute, without formal nomination.

Associate membership shall be open in full and part-time postgraduate students and final year Honours students of Geography in any Australian University. Associate members shall have all rights of membership, except

that of participating in General Business Meetings and postal ballots. Associate membership may be held for only as long as appropriate qualifications appertain. Candidates for Associate membership shall be nominated and seconded by Ordinary members.

Members whose subscriptions are more than twelve months in arrears shall lose the benefits of membership.

#### 4. FINANCE

The Annual subscription shall be determined from time to time by the General Business Meeting of the Institute and shall thereupon be notified to all members. The subscription for Associate members should not exceed one half of that for Ordinary members.

The Financial Year shall commence on the first day of January and properly audited Accounts shall be presented each Financial Year.

#### 5. MEETINGS

A. Ordinary Meetings at which papers embodying the results of geographic research will be presented shall be held at such times and places as the Council shall decide.

B. General Meetings to consider business shall be held at intervals of not more than two calendar years. The quorum at a General Meeting shall be one quarter of the Ordinary Members of the Institute. At least three months notice of such a meeting must be given. Motions signed by a proposer and seconder, and submitted to the Secretary not less than eight weeks before the meeting, shall be circulated to all members in advance of the meeting.

Except as otherwise provided by the Constitution all questions before a Business Meeting shall be decided by a majority of the votes of the Financial Members present, the Chairman having a deliberative, and, in the case of equality of voting, a casting vote.

#### 6. COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL

The business of the Institute shall be conducted by a Council consisting of a President, a Senior Vice-President (who shall be the immediate past President) a Junior Vice-President, an Honorary Secretary-Treasurer shall hold office until the next succeeding General Business Meeting, and shall not be eligible for immediate re-election. The Junior Vice-President shall then succeed the Presidency. The Honorary Secretary-Treasurer shall hold office until the second General Business Meeting after his election, and shall be eligible for immediate re-election to this office. Ordinary Council members shall hold office until the second succeeding

General Business Meeting following election.

On the occasion of the first General Business Meeting, all members of the Interim Council shall retire, but shall be eligible for election to the Council.

7. ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL

The retiring Council shall nominate sufficient names to compose the new Council in place of the retiring members, and shall circulate its nominations at least eight weeks before the General Business Meeting.

Financial Members of the Institute shall have the right to propose additional names in writing up to four weeks before the meeting, and such proposals shall be signed by the proposer and seconder, and shall carry the signature of the Nominee indicating his willingness to act. Election shall be by postal ballot of Financial Members, and voting forms must reach the Secretary before the opening of the General Business Meeting, at which the votes will be counted. Election for the offices of President, Vice-President and Honorary Secretary-Treasurer shall be by simple majority.

Elections for the Ordinary Members of Council shall be by preferential voting. A person nominated for an Office may also be nominated alternatively for Ordinary Membership of Council.

8. FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

A. The Council shall conduct the affairs of the Institute, and shall represent the members of the Institute, and shall represent the members of the Institute in negotiation affecting Australian Geography in general.

B. The Officers of the Institute shall perform such duties as the Council assigns to them.

C. The Council shall have the power to appoint a second secretary for the purposes of facilitating the business of the meetings.

D. The Council shall have the power to fill extraordinary vacancies by co-option. Such coopted Members shall hold office until the next General Business Meeting.

E. The Council shall meet no less than once in each calendar year but urgent business may also be transacted by postal ballot among its members. A quorum of a meeting of Council shall be five members, of whom one must be the President or Vice-President, and one the Honorary Secretary-Treasurer. The President (or in his absence the Vice-President) shall have a casting vote.

## 9. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Any proposed alteration shall be sent in writing to the Secretary over the signatures of not fewer than five Ordinary Members not less than four weeks before the date of a General Business Meeting. The proposed alteration shall be discussed at the meeting and decided by a subsequent postal ballot. The proposed alteration shall become operative if approved by two thirds of the votes cast.

## III INSTITUTE PUBLICATIONS

A general discussion on publications resulted in a decision to delay the establishment of a full Journal.

The need for a smaller newsletter type of publication to include a directory of professional geographers, news from Universities and other research centres was stressed. It was suggested that the initial issue of such a review, which would in fact announce the foundation of the Institute, should be of high quality and that journals like the New Zealand Record and the Professional Geographer might be used.

That a 20 page Review of Australian Geography by published in 1959.  
Thomson/Brookfield  
CARRIED

That Dr Brookfield act as Editor  
Thomson/Tweedie  
CARRIED

The Council directed Dr Brookfield to gather copy, have quotations made and 400 copies printed, copies to be distributed free to members and to Universities, Research Centres and Libraries throughout the world.

## IV FIRST GENERAL MEETING

Because of the small number of geographers planning to attend the 1959 ANZAAS Meeting in Perth it was felt that the suggestion put forward at the Inaugural Meeting to hold the First General Meeting in Adelaide would meet with little success. After much discussion the Council directed the Secretary to approach Professor Andrews on the possibility of holding the meeting at the University of Melbourne in late January 1960. It would be advisable to appoint a Local Secretary to handle the immediate details of the Meeting. It was decided that the Meeting should consist of three parts:

- 1) Business Meeting
- 2) Presidential Address
- 3) Invited papers, possibly combined with excursions

A possible programme for a four-day Meeting was suggested as:

Day I	Business Meeting	Presidential Address
II	Two papers in the morning	Afternoon free
III	Four papers	
IV	Two papers in morning	Afternoon free

Professor Scott offered to have the papers for presentation printed and bound.

That Professors Scott and Greenwood should act as referees for the programme of papers.

Tweedie/Brookfield  
CARRIED

The Secretary was directed to circulate members inviting papers. Titles accompanied by a brief outline to indicate the trend of the paper should be in the hands of the Secretary by June 30th, the full paper of those selected by October 31st.

That in view of the approved academic standard of Mr. E. Bird he might be permitted to offer a paper to be read at the First Annual General Meeting of the Institute.

Brookfield/Greenwood  
CARRIED

Signed  
Professor Griffith Taylor