

## Western Australian Apiarists' Society

### Member Code of Conduct

The Constitution of the Western Australian Apiarists' Society (WAAS) contains our aims:

- a. To promote and encourage the art of responsible beekeeping.
- b. To maintain the good name and reputation of WAAS.
- c. To train members and persons within the community in the skills of responsible beekeeping and provide forums so that members and the community can discuss and share information about beekeeping and bees and enjoy each other's company.
- d. To improve the community's understanding and appreciation of the important role of bees in our environment and to increase the public's acceptance of beekeeping as a worthwhile activity.
- e. To encourage and support, as the opportunity arises, the formation of Chapters, sub branches and community groups for the furtherance of WAAS's aim and objectives.
- f. To publish and make available to members information of interest concerning WAAS and beekeeping.
- g. To join with Government agencies, local councils, the business community, kindred Associations and the public in activities to meet common objectives in support of beekeeping, the welfare of bees and the importance of bees in our society.

This Code of Conduct sets out the expected behaviour and conduct standards for WAAS members, Committee members and anyone else involved in the activities of the Society, including visitors and contractors, to ensure that these aims are upheld.

The primary objective of the Code of Conduct is to ensure that the relationship between all individuals involved in the activities of the Association is conducted in an open, honest and constructive manner with good intent and mutual respect, in order to best advance the aims of the Society.

#### **Conduct of Members**

All members of WAAS are expected to:

- Adhere to the WAAS Constitution and this Code of Conduct and uphold the good reputation of the Society.
- Behave in a proper, lawful, and responsible manner in all activities associated with beekeeping, including compliance with all Government legislation and guidance. All WAAS members **MUST** register their hives with DPIRD and ensure they adhere to any local government regulations.
- Maintain the highest standards in beekeeping by maintaining their knowledge of biosecurity developments and requirements and ensuring that their beekeeping practices are consistent with the standards laid out in the WAAS document *Best-Practice Guidelines for Urban Beekeepers*.

- Acknowledge and respect the views of fellow beekeepers without derogatory or disparaging comment. Everyone has the right to express their own views, but these must not be hurtful, cause distress or be insulting or discriminatory.

### **Conduct of Committee members**

In addition to the conduct expected of all WAAS members, Committee members will:

- Conduct WAAS responsibilities with due care, competence, and diligence.
- Act honestly and in good faith, in the best interest of the Association as a whole and declare any actual or potential conflicts of interests at the commencement of Committee meetings.
- Take no personal advantage in their role as a committee member.
- Respect diversity of opinion and ensure that Committee behaviour and decisions do not result in unjust or prejudicial distinctions in the treatment of any member.
- Ensure that any confidential information gained as a Committee member is not used for any purpose other than to further the goals and objectives of the Western Australian Apiarists' Society.
- Respect the privacy of individuals and the security of personal information, and work to ensure that any information or material that is received, viewed, accessed is not misused intentionally or unintentionally.
- Deal with any conflicts according to the WAAS Committee Conflict Resolution policy and the Constitution.

### **Meeting etiquette**

- At meetings, members and visitors are entitled to be treated politely, respectfully and with consideration and engage in discussions free of discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.
- During any meeting the chairperson's decision in relation to meeting etiquette is immediate and binding.
- If an attendee's conduct in the opinion of the chair of the meeting is not acceptable, the chair has the right to direct the attendee to leave immediately with no discussion. If the attendee refuses to leave an appropriate external authority can be used to facilitate their leaving.

### **Misconduct**

In the event that any member brings the name of the Society or the industry into disrepute or conducts themselves in any manner deemed irresponsible, unethical or illegal, the Committee may take action to suspend or cancel their membership, in accordance with the Constitution and/or refer the matter to other relevant agencies.

Note: Steps to be taken for formal resolution of disputes, the use of mediation and disciplinary action are covered in Part 4 of the Constitution of the Western Australian Apiarists' Society.