



The Australian Rangeland Society

2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - Meeting #223

23 May 2012

37 Pioneer Crescent, Bellbowrie, Queensland, 4070

MINUTES

1. Open meeting

The meeting was opened at 5.34 pm (EST).

Present: John Taylor, Carolyn Ireland, Peter Marin, Richard Silcock, Peter Johnston, Graeme Tupper, Marion Murphy, Ken Hodgkinson, Annabel Walsh, Kate Masters, Bruce Alchin

2. Apologies

Don Burnside, Dr John Leys, Eric Anderson, Diana O'Connor, Larissa Lauder, Noelene Duckett

3. Minutes of the 2011 Annual General Meeting (Meeting #215)

The 2011 AGM was held on 16 May 2011. John Taylor moved that the minutes be received as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Seconded: Graham Tupper, Carried.

There were no items arising from the minutes for discussion.

4. Directors' Report

The Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2011, incorporating the Directors' Report, the Membership Report and the Publications Report was circulated prior to the meeting.

President John Taylor provided an outline of key issues in the Directors' Report (these are summarised as dot points on page 1 of the report). Ken Hodgkinson, Chair of the Publications Committee and Graeme Tupper, Subscription Manager reported on the Publications and Membership of the Society respectively. The Society's Finance and Audit Officer/Company Secretary, Mr Peter Marin, presented the Financial Report.

Review of operations

2011 was another busy and productive year for the Society.

- In February, the Society had a booth at the 64th Society for Rangeland Management's annual meeting in Billings, Montana. Over 120 flyers, with information about the ARS, the Kununurra Conference and The Rangeland Journal, were taken over the two days of the Trade Show. This has been a minimal cost to the Society, with the ARS representatives' travel costs borne by other sources and the cost of the booth shared by CSIRO Publishing, the ARS and Rangelands Australia.

- In March, Council considered a report on membership structure and fees, and resolved: i) some minor changes to simplify the categories of membership and ii) to retain fees at the 2010 rates.
- Using the new guidelines, Council sought nominations for the award of Fellow of the Australian Rangeland Society. The cases for Dr Ken Hodgkinson and A/Prof 'Wal' Whalley were unanimously endorsed, and their Fellowships will be formally conferred in September 2012 at the Kununurra Conference.
- Council also approved the role descriptions for the Chair of the Publications Committee and the Editor in Chief, The Rangeland Journal (TRJ), and endorsed the process for recruitment of a new Editor-in-Chief.
- Council considered and accepted the Final Report of the Organizing Committee for the Bourke Conference (2010), and recorded its appreciation of the efforts of the Bourke Organizing Committee. This, and reports of earlier conferences, have been forwarded to the Kununurra Organizing Committee for information and guidance.
- Council extended the contract with CSIRO Publishing for 12 months, and endorsed the Publications Committee's plans to seek Expressions of Interest in publishing The Rangeland Journal from a range of publishers, and to critically assess all submissions.
- Mr Ben Forsyth nominated for the vacancy on Council created by the resignation of Mr Peter Johnston. This nomination was unanimously accepted at the 2011 AGM.
- Council noted the need to change the Articles of Association to accommodate electronic communication tools, and developed proposals for consideration at the 2012 AGM.
- Finally in March, Mr Russell Grant accepted the role as Website Manager. Further improvements were made to the website in 2011.
- With assistance from ARS Travel Grants, Bob Karfs, Bob Shepherd and Dr Carolyn Ireland attended the International Rangeland Congress (IRC) in Argentina in April 2011. Reports of their travel have been published in the Range Management Newsletter.
- The Society had a stand at the IRC, and a roster of members served to provide information and handouts on the ARS, The Rangeland Journal and other relevant products from CSIRO Publishing.
- The AGM was held on 16 May 2011, with the major agenda items being the Director's and Financial Reports and election of Office Bearers.
- In June, Council confirmed its willingness to contribute to the Global Rangeland Repository's (GRR) goal of building global access to rangeland management resources for research, teaching and extension. The Society's contributions will include abstracts of all past articles from 'The Rangelands Journal' (and its' previous incarnations), and full articles from our Biennial Conference Proceedings and past issues of the Range Management Newsletter. This has begun with hard copies of the proceedings of recent conferences being sent to the US to be scanned and ultimately uploaded onto the GRR and ARS websites.

- In July, Council endorsed and ratified the Publication Committee's recommendation to accept CSIRO Publishing's submission to publish The Rangeland Journal (in print and on-line versions) and oversight advertising in the Society's publications. A 5-year agreement was subsequently completed with CSIRO Publishing in October 2011.
- In July, Council were advised of the impending resignation of Dr Ken Hodgkinson, Chair of the Publications Committee, and endorsed a process to identify and select a suitable replacement.
- Also in July, A/Prof 'Wal' Whalley stood down as Editor-in-Chief of The Rangeland Journal, Council appointed Professor John Milne (Scotland) as his replacement. Prof Milne visited Australia in November to meet with CSIRO Publishing, members of the Publications Committee, Australian-based Associate Editors of The Rangeland Journal, and some members of Council. A/Prof Wal Whalley was appointed an Associate Editor for a 3 year term.
- In August, Council endorsed the appointment of Mr Don Heylen as a 'book-keeper' to maintain the Society's financial records. This appointment provides a separation of the 'treasurer' and Audit Officer roles. Mr Heylen is to be paid an honorarium and provided with a complementary membership of the Society.
- In late 2011 Council developed a draft of a survey of Member's needs, fees and potential uses of the Society's cash reserves. This survey will be distributed to present and recent past members in early 2012, with a report on the findings to be presented at the Kununurra Conference and in the Range Management Newsletter.
- Dr Peter O'Reagain attended the International Symposium on the Nutrition of Herbivores Conference in September with the assistance of an ARS Travel Grant, and his report has also been published in the Range Management Newsletter.
- In November, the inaugural Rangeland Journal Lecture series was held to draw attention to research on Australia's rangelands, promote the ARS and The Rangeland Journal, and to introduce Prof Milne to members. Lectures were given by Dr Mark Stafford-Smith (Canberra), Grant Allen (Alice Springs), Dr Andrew Ash (Brisbane) and Prof Milne (Townsville), and were well attended in all locations. Council would like to express its thanks to Dr Ken Hodgkinson for organizing this series, and to members who assisted in the local organization of these events and hosted Prof Milne and his wife on their travels.
- Dr Ron Hacker was appointed as an Associate Editor of The Rangeland Journal following the resignation of Dr E Mwangi.
- In December, Council considered applications for Travel Grants and awarded grants to the following – Dr Noelene Duckett and Helene Aubalt.
- Throughout the year, Council has been informed of the progress of the Kununurra Conference Organizing Committee through the minutes of Organizing Committee meetings and the participation of a Council Member, Larissa Lauder, on the Organizing Committee. The second brochure for the conference was produced and distributed widely in December 2011.

Council met seven times during 2011, and also held an Annual General Meeting on 16 May 2011. Of these meetings, two were 'out-of-session' meetings. All meetings were held via teleconference.

The following were members of the ARS Council, and attended () meetings during 2011:

J Taylor (8)	President
C Ireland (8)	Secretary
P Marin (4)	Finance and Audit Officer/Company Secretary
G Tupper (7)	Subscription Manager/General Member,
B Forsyth (3)	General Member (from July)
P Johnston (2)	General Member (resigned May)
L Lauder (7)	General Member
K Masters (3)	General Member
A Walsh (6)	General Member

In addition to Council, the Society continues to rely heavily on volunteers who fulfill vital roles. These are:

Dr K.C. Hodgkinson	Chair, Publication Committee
Dr R.D.B. Whalley	Editor in Chief (TRJ) until July and Publication Committee
Dr N. Duckett	Editor (RMN) and Publication Committee
Mr R. Grant	Editor Website and Publications Committee
Dr A.J. Ash	Associate Editor
Prof. R. Long	Associate Editor
Dr B. Cooke	Associate Editor
Dr R. Hacker	Associate Editor
Mr N.D. Macleod	Associate Editor
Dr M Stafford-Smith	Associate Editor
Prof M. Fernández-Giménez	Associate Editor
Dr B. Bestelmeyer	Associate Editor
Dr E Mwangi	Associate Editor (until December 2011)
Professor B Hubert	Associate Editor
Professor J. Milne	Editor-in-Chief (TRJ) (from August) and Publications Committee
Dr A. Pressland	Associate Editor
Dr D.G. Burnside	Publications Committee
Dr D.J. Eldridge	Publications Committee
Dr P.W. Johnston	Publications Committee
Prof. M. McGregor	Publications Committee
Dr J. Davies	Publications Committee

Publications Report

The publishing and circulation of professional and highly regarded publications in the form of three newsletters and four journal issues per year to members and the Societies website continued under the guidance of the Publications Committee and their respective Editors and Associate Editors.

In 2010, the Society was in the final year of its second 3-year Publication Agreement with CSIRO Publishing to have *The Rangeland Journal* (TRJ) published both electronically and in hard-copy for the years 2008 - 2010 (Volumes 30, 31 and 32). A one-year extension to the contract (to publish Volume 33) was negotiated for 2011. In 2011 the Publications Committee explored options for the publishing of the journal, and in December 2011 Council accepted a recommendation from the Publications Committee to form a new Publications Agreement with CSIRO Publishing to publish the Journal until

2015. The TRJ continued to be made available in hard copy and electronic form to members in categories other than Libraries and kindred institutions. The latter two categories may receive TRJ in electronic form only, or, at a premium subscription rate, electronic form plus print. The *Range Management Newsletter* continues to be published in hard copy form and has recently commenced in electronic form via the Society's new website. CSIRO Publishing specifically promoted TRJ at six national and nine international conferences in 2010, and in various mail-outs and inserts as part of their regular renewal campaigns.

Although the cost of electronic publication is greater than that by conventional means, Council is still of the opinion that this change was necessary if the Society is to persist as a vital body capable of providing impartial advice and opinion for policy makers and the community generally on rangelands and their use. It is pleasing to note the number of high quality papers submitted to TRJ continues to increase following the publication of the first Issue by CSIRO Publications in 2005.

In 2011, 94 manuscripts were received (49% from Australia). This is an increase in number of papers received compared with 2010 (83 manuscripts). The continued high submission rate in 2011 indicates increased confidence / interest in the journal.

The Journal has a significant web presence on the CSIRO publishing site. Archival back content (all Volumes to date) has been made available to all subscribers. The back content has been downloaded at an increasing rate with the 'most read' papers and Special Issues attracting the highest number of downloads. In 2011 the TRJ web site was well utilised with a continued increase in the number of subscribers accessing the site. Individual TRJ papers have been downloaded 27,947 times in 2011 (this is similar to the number of paper downloads recorded for 2010), at a rate of approximately 77 individual papers per day. The most read paper in 2011 with 325 downloads was "[Measure it to better manage it: a biodiversity monitoring framework for the Australian rangelands](#)" by Teresa J. Eyre, Alaric Fisher, Leigh P. Hunt and Alex S. Kutt, published in Volume 33 (3) on 9 September 2011.

The ISI Citation Impact Factor is based on a narrow window of citation and is reported in June each year. The Impact Factor for a given year is based on the ratio of citations to papers published in the previous 2 years. The Citation Impact Factor for 2010 was 1.040, compared with 1.164 for 2009. To date TRJ has about 115 citations and 79 papers published which gives an "indicative 2011 impact factor" of about 1.450. This means that the Journal has maintained its strong profile in the research community while consolidating the content to 4 regular issues over the citation periods. The 'indicative 2011' Citation Impact Factor places the Journal in rank 80th out of 130 journals listed in the Ecology category — this rank is an improvement on that achieved in the previous year. The steady rise in the Impact Factor (from 2009 to 2011) is directly related to publication of 'high impact' papers, rigorous reviewing and 'active encouragement' for readers to cite papers. The most cited paper (21 citations) over this 4-year period is "Climate change impacts on northern Australian rangeland livestock carrying capacity: a review of issues" by McKeon G. M.; Stone G. S.; Syktus J. I.; et al. published in Volume 31 (1) on 1 March 2009.

Other highlights for the journal included two special issues published in 2011. The first (Volume 33, Issue 2) contained a selection of papers from the ARS 16th Biennial Conference, Bourke, NSW and was entitled "Rain of the Rangelands". It comprised 6 papers as well as a Guest Editorial by Tony Pressland, the Guest Editor. The second special issue (Volume 33, Issue 4) contained a selection of papers from the Desert CRC "Livelihoods in Desert Australia". Drs Murray McGregor and Craig James acted as the guest editors. These Special Issues have attracted considerable interest from 'rangeland' ecologists worldwide who may not be familiar with the Journal. Two special issues are also planned for 2012.

Council would like to thank Dr Ken Hodgkinson and the Publications Committee for driving the changes to the Society's publications. These changes commenced with a major focus on *The Rangeland Journal*. Ken has subsequently focused on the web site which is also now complete and a major communication tool for the Society. Looking ahead, the *Range Management Newsletter* is to be reviewed in early 2012.

Biennial Conference

The biennial conference is a significant event in the Society's calendar and provides the main mechanism for members and guests to interact and exchange ideas about the use and management of Australia's rangelands. There was no conference held in 2011.

Organization is well underway for the next conference, in Kununurra WA in September 2012. The theme "Celebrating Diversity: People, Places, Purpose" is attracting strong interest.

Membership Report

Membership of the Society has remained more or less stable at around 350-400 members since 2002.

In December 2011 there were 297 members managed by the Society with CSIRO Publishing managing another 94, giving a total of 391. The corresponding figures for December 2010 were 306 plus 79 (=385), December 2009 were 273 plus 83 (=356), December 2008 were 302 plus 83 (=385), December 2007, 303 plus 84 (=387), December 2006, 351 plus 75 (=426) and for December 2005, 321 plus 61 (=382). This compares with 438 in 2004, 434 in 2003 and 427 in December 2002.

The addition of new members fluctuates between conference and non-conference years. There were 23 new members in 2011 (a non-conference year), 84 new members in 2010 (a conference year), 19 new members in 2009, 70 new members in 2008 (a conference year), 23 new members in 2007, 41 new members in 2006 (a conference year) and 30 new members in 2005. However, the trend in new memberships is negated by losses through retirements, a trend which will only intensify as the population of rangeland advisers and scientists who formed the backbone of the Society in earlier years, ages and retires, and through non-renewals, in spite of rigorous efforts by the Subscription Manager to encourage all members to renew.

While the system of renewing via the ARS website was intended to make it easier to renew memberships, many members have not been able, or in a few cases not willing, to use the system. Common problems are that some members do not keep a record of their password, and when their email address changes they do not update their contact details in the on-line membership database. The email address recorded in the database is needed as the member's username. The Subscription Manager is making every effort possible to assist members to renew, whether on-line, by using the traditional postal system, or orally per the telephone.

Council has supported a presence at major international range-related events in an effort to grow the membership, but up to date this has not shown any fruit in the way of new members from overseas.

The majority (86%) of members and subscribers come from Australia, with 48% of members coming from Queensland and New South Wales. There were 13 international members (plus 42 international subscribers), compared to 23 at the same time in 2010, 20 at the same time in 2009, 15 at the same time in 2008 and 7 at the same time in 2007.

The membership figures include six ARS Fellows and fourteen “ex-officio” non-paying members such as the ARS archive, the National Library of Australia, and Associate Editors for *The Rangeland Journal*. It is also noted that the Society has about 33 landholder addresses amongst its members.

Subscription rates for those subscribers managed by the Society remained unchanged for 2011 (e.g. \$100 for Full Members resident in Australia).

In addition to publishing *The Rangeland Journal*, CSIRO Publishing manages subscriptions for the Society’s “Library” subscribers as well as some of its “Institutional / Corporate” subscribers. Mailing labels were prepared for 94 CSIRO subscribers for the last Newsletter of 2011, up from 79 in 2010.

5. Financial Report

The financial affairs of the Society remain on a strong footing despite a loss from ordinary activities of \$64,742 (2010: loss of \$32,792) and total equity/accumulated surplus of \$217,682 (2010:\$282,424).

The Society’s total equity is \$217,682 which is considered adequate to cover any liabilities.

The Society continued to work on improvements to programs and protocols to allow it to complete its commitments to standard reporting of its financial position as required under law.

John Taylor moved that the Directors’ Report for the year ending 31 December 2011 be accepted. Seconded: Peter Johnston. Carried.

6. Motions on notice

Motion 1

Solvency resolution

‘That the Directors have reason to believe that the Australian Rangeland Society Ltd will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.’

Moved: John Taylor, Seconded: Ken Hodgkinson, Carried.

Motion 2

Alterations to the Articles of Association

Council of the Australian Rangeland Society (the Society) recommended that changes be made to the Articles and Memorandum of Association of the Society (the Articles) to allow the following:

- A shorter time-frame for sending and receiving “Notices of Meeting”
- Inclusion of the Society’s Website and email as lines of communication in these matters.
- Incorporation of the Society’s Website as a publication
- Deletion of authority for bank accounts to be established for publishing the Journal and the Newsletter
- Deletion of the role of Production Manager.

Section 26 of the Articles deals with Alteration of the Articles. Any alterations:

- Must be approved by an AGM

- Must be submitted to and approved by the Minister of the Crown who is administering the Corporations Law

Subject to the above two points the Articles may be altered in such a manner as Council may from time to time recommend.

The following proposals to amend the Articles of the Society to enable these alterations will be put as one Motion to the 2012 Annual General Meeting

1. It is proposed to amend clause (b) of Article 7 (Meetings of the Society) that reads:

(b) Each member of the Society shall be entitled to be given not less than six weeks prior written notice of each general meeting of the Society, specifying the place, date and time of commencing of the meeting and the nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting. Notice published in the Journal or Newsletter shall be deemed to constitute due notice for the purposes of this paragraph, as long as the edition of the Journal or Newsletter in which such notice appears is dispatched to members generally not less than six weeks prior to the meeting.

to:

(b) Each member of the Society shall be entitled to be given not less than three weeks prior written notice of each general meeting of the Society, specifying the place, date and time of commencing of the meeting and the nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting. Notice published in the Newsletter and on the Society's Website shall be deemed to constitute due notice for the purposes of this paragraph, as long as the edition of the Newsletter in which such notice appears is dispatched to members generally not less than three weeks prior to the meeting and is published on the Website not less than three weeks prior to the meeting.

2. It is proposed to amend clause (a) of Article 27 (Notices) that reads:

(a) A notice may be given by the Society to any member either personally or by sending it by post to him/her at his/her registered address. Where a notice is sent by post, service of the notice shall be deemed to be effected by properly addressing, prepaying, and posting a letter containing the notice, and to have been effected in the case of a notice of a meeting on the second day after the date of its posting, and in any other case at the time at which the letter would be delivered in the ordinary course of post.

to:

(a) A notice may be given by the Society to any member either personally or by sending it by post or email to him/her at his/her registered postal or email address. Where a notice is sent by post, service of the notice shall be deemed to be effected by properly addressing, prepaying, and posting a letter containing the notice, and to have been effected in the case of a notice of a meeting on the second day after the date of its posting, and in any other case at the time at which the letter would be delivered in the ordinary course of post. Where a notice is sent by email, service of the notice shall be deemed to be effected by properly addressing and sending the email containing the notice.

3. It is proposed to amend clause (a) of Article 23 (Publications) that reads:

(a) The Society shall publish periodicals to be known as 'The Rangeland Journal' and the 'Range Management Newsletter'. The Journal shall be published in such manner and at such intervals as the Council may decide.

to:

- (a) The Society shall publish periodicals to be known as 'The Rangeland Journal' and the 'Range Management Newsletter' and other material of interest to members on an electronic website. The Journal shall be published in such manner and at such intervals as the Council may decide.

4. It is proposed to amend clause (b) of Article 23 (Publications) that reads:

- (b) The Journal and/or Newsletter shall be sent free to each member of the Society according to his/her membership category, at his/her registered address.

to:

- (b) The Journal shall be sent to each member of the Society according to his/her membership category; at his/her registered address and electronic access to the Newsletter and Members Only section of the Website shall be provided exclusively to members.

5. It is proposed that clause (c) of Article 23 (Publications) that reads:

- (c) A list of all members shall be published periodically.

remains unchanged:

- (c) A list of all members shall be published periodically.

6. It is proposed to amend clause (d) of Article 23 (Publications) that reads:

- (d) The Council shall appoint biennially a Publications Committee consisting of the Editors for the Journal and Newsletter, the production Manager and such other members (not necessarily being members of the Council) as the Council may decide.

to:

- (d) The Council shall appoint biennially a Publications Committee consisting of the Editors for the Journal, Newsletter and Website, and such other members (not necessarily being members of the Council) as the Council may decide.

7. It is proposed to amend clause (e) of Article 23 (Publications) that reads:

- (e) The members of the Publications Committee shall hold office until the end of the second annual general meeting after their appointment or last reappointment, except that the Council may at any time terminate the appointment of any one or more of the members of the Committee.

to:

- (e) The members of the Publications Committee shall hold office for three years after their appointment or last reappointment, except that the Council may at any time terminate the appointment of any one or more of the members of the Committee.

8. It is proposed to delete clause (f) of Article 23 (Publications) that reads:

- (f) For the operations of the Newsletter, the Newsletter Editor and Production Manager may jointly operate a bank account to be opened at such bank and operated in such manner as the Council may decide, under

the name 'Australian Rangeland Society Newsletter Account'. Cheques shall be signed jointly by the Newsletter Editor and Production Manager, or in such other manner as the Council may decide.

9. It is proposed to delete clause (g) of Article 23 (Publications) that reads:

- (g) For the operations of the Journal, the Journal Editor and Productions Manager may jointly operate a bank account to be opened at such bank and operated in such manner as the Council may decide, under the name 'Australian Rangeland Society Journal Account'. Cheques shall be signed jointly by the Editor and the Business Manager, or in such other manner as the Council may decide.

10. It is proposed to add a new clause (f) of Article 23 (Publications) that reads:

- (f) The Society shall maintain an electronic website on the internet to inform the public about the Society, to provide an electronic means of joining the Society, to provide electronic access to proceedings of conferences organised by the Society, the Newsletter and to any other material Council and the Publications Committee wish to publish.

11. It is proposed that clause (g) of Article 23 (Publications) that reads:

- (g) All advertisements for insertion in the Society's publications must first be approved by the relevant Editor on behalf of the Council.

remain unchanged.

12. It is proposed to amend the title of Article 24 (Editors etc.) that reads:

24. EDITORS OF THE JOURNAL AND NEWSLETTER

to:

24. EDITORS OF THE JOURNAL, NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE

13. It is proposed to delete Article 25 (Production Manager) that reads:

25 PRODUCTION MANAGER

- (a) The Council may appoint from time to time a person to be the Production Manager of its publications on such terms and conditions as it may decide.

The Production Manager shall be responsible for the printing, publication and distribution of the Journal and such other publications and matters as directed by Council. The Production Manager shall be subject to the directions of the Council in all matters involving the expenditure of funds.

John Taylor moved that the alterations to the Articles of Association outlined above be adopted.
Seconded: Richard Silcock, Carried

7. Other motions

Change of Directors

As part of the regular rotation of Council members, the AGM will be asked to formally accept resignations of existing Directors and the Company Secretary and appoint new officers. John Taylor, Carolyn Ireland and Peter Marin have nominated as Directors, John Taylor has nominated as President and Peter Marin has also nominated as Finance and Audit Officer and Company Secretary.

John Taylor moved 'That the nominations of John Taylor, Carolyn Ireland and Peter Marin as Directors of The Australian Rangeland Society Ltd be accepted and that the nominations of John Taylor as President, of Carolyn Ireland as Secretary and of Peter Marin for Finance and Audit Offer and Company Secretary of the Australian Rangeland Society Ltd be accepted.' Seconded: Graeme Tupper. Carried.

8. General business

There was no general business.

9. Close meeting

The President recorded his appreciation of members of Council for their sterling work during the years and also thanked those present for their participation and attendance. He closed the meeting at 6.36 pm (EST).