



# *The Australian Rangeland Society*

**Council meeting No. 210 – 26 September 2010**

## **MINUTES**

4pm NSW Time

Board Room of the Western CMA, Lands Office, 21 Mitchell Street, Bourke

1. **Present:** John Taylor, Carolyn Ireland, Graeme Tupper, Larissa Lauder, Annabel Walsh, Kate Masters (Wednesday), Peter Johnston (Wednesday)

**Apologies:**, Peter Marin,

2. **Ken Hodgkinson and Wal Whalley – Invited Guests.** Ken and Wal were invited to the meeting to discuss the following items with Council:

- **The Global Rangelands Repository (GRR) (Carolyn Ireland took over the chair from President John Taylor).**

John Taylor declared a conflict of interest. Director Carolyn Ireland will take the lead on the GRR at this and at all future deliberations, and John Taylor will absent himself when any decisions regarding this matter are to be made. Ken Hodgkinson reported the following points to Council:

- He has circulated the GRR papers to members of the Publications Committee and received two replies.
- These replies have echoed the opinion of both he and Wal Whalley that the GRR initiative is a good initiative and should be encouraged.
- They have some reservations regarding publication of full articles from The Rangeland Journal (TRJ) in the GRR because this action may be in conflict with the Society's contract with CSIRO Publishing, (CSIRO would lose customers) and may ultimately be detrimental to the Society (one major benefit of Society Membership being access to TRJ). It is understood that the Grassland Society of South Africa has similar concerns.
- After a comprehensive discussion, Ken and Wal, as representatives of the Publications Committee, recommended to Council that the Range Management Newsletter, Biennial Conference Proceedings and Abstracts of TRJ be made available for publication on the GRR but not full Journal articles.
- They noted that some documents are already scanned in pdf format (TRJ Abstracts). There will be a cost to scan the balance of documents. It is recommended that the ARS seeks financial

support from GRR for scanning the balance of the documents, if Council agrees to engage in this initiative..

- Council to make a decision on participating in the GRR at its next meeting in November and will send a formal decision to the US Consortium (cc'd to the Publications Committee) at that time.

- **Other potential publishers for TRJ (John Taylor resumed the Chair)**

- John Taylor introduced the topic with the comment that Council and the Publications committee need to follow good business practices, explore what other Publishers are available for TRJ, and negotiate the best deal for members.
- Ken Hodgkinson made the following points:
  - TRJ is highly regarded by CSIRO Publishing; it can be grown, has a good future and is well managed.
  - Our CSIRO publishing contract runs out at the end of 2010. The Publications Committee recommends the contract be extended for 6 months to allow time for a new five year contract with CSIRO to be drafted **or** for Council to canvas other Publishers.
  - Ken explained that CSIRO Publishing has done a great job
  - There are several complicating factors; Wal Whalley is stepping down as Editor-in-Chief (EIC) on June 30, 2011 and the Publications Committee will need to find a new EIC, CSIRO Publishing's plans to grow TRJ from 4 to 6 issues per year; and the Publications Committee will need to streamline its structure and the operation of of EIC and Associate Editors in order to cope with 120 papers (rather than 80) per year.
  - If the ARS wants to have a Journal it needs to be highly competitive internationally; it needs to rise from an impact factor of 1.6 to 2.10. It needs to attract a wider range of international authors and have more of its Associated Editors based overseas in the Southern Hemisphere.
  - Carolyn to send an email Council with a list of items to be contained in the brief for potential publishers (corrections and other suggestions will be sought from Council). This will be sent to the Publications Committee to assist with the tasks outlined below.
  - Council requests that the Publications Committee:
    - Extend the current CSIRO Publishing contract for 6 months
    - Seek quotes and proposals from two other publishers
    - Seek a proposal from CSIRO for a new 5 year contract which may include a proposal for part-ownership of TRJ and plans to grow TRJ to six issues per year.
    - Ultimately, the Publications Committee is requested to provide Council with a recommendation to either stay with CSIRO Publishing or contract another publisher

- 3. Minutes of the three previous meetings** were approved with minor changes
- 29 July 2010 Council Meeting – Moved Graeme, Seconded Annabel, Carried.
  - 12 August 2010 Out of Session Meeting – Moved Annabel, Seconded Larissa, Carried
  - 9 Sept 2010 Special General Meeting – Moved Annabel, Seconded Graeme, Carried.

#### **4. Business arising from the minutes:**

- Honoraria were discussed again; Peter J is yet to contact recipients with letters.
- New producer member's competition. Bourke organising committee to insert flyer in satchels at Conference. Complete.
- Bourke Conference Organising Committee. Have had weekly steering com meetings. Numbers approximately 200.
- Website.
  - Electronic archive. Remove from Agenda
  - Links to regional newsletters. John Taylor to talk to John Gavin about newsletters that exist within the Rangeland Alliance.
- Global Rangeland Repository. Discussed in item 2 above. Leave on agenda until resolved.
- Professional Affiliation and Alliance Opportunities with the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ). Peter J to reply to them asking questions and to table response at a Council meeting.
- Policy and Guidelines and Schedule of fees for Advertising. Publications Committee still considering this.
- Guidelines for future Conferences. Larissa to update draft with number of words maximum per section. Need to tighten words for expenditure and budget section. Need a preliminary budget included as a new section. The President thanked Larissa for a job well done.
- A proposal for the WA conference. Accepted in principal but Council requires a revised proposal with more attention paid to OHS, budget and identification of key people on the ground in Kununurra. Council nominated Larissa Lauder as the Council representative on the Steering Committee for the WA proposal – Carolyn to write a letter to WA Committee and also send Larissa copies of Charters Towers and Renmark Conference Reports.
- Institutional Memberships and discounts for attendance at Rangeland Conferences – Kate and Graeme. Currently \$135 for Corporate, \$100 per family Member. Discount for conferences for Corporate is only one member. Council resolved that the wider issue of membership classes and benefits be reviewed, including discounts at conferences, access to publications, membership categories, membership targets – Graeme and Kate to take the lead on this and to seek input from Ian Watson and Gary Bastin (former Subscription Managers). Paper to be prepared for Council by the March 2011 Meeting of Council.
- IRC in Argentina – Council approved an ARS stand to promote the Society, the Publications and the Kununurra Conference. John Taylor to talk to Gabriel this week at the Bourke Conference about booking a trade display and costs. If it progresses, Council will need handouts and other promotional material from WA and Publications Committee by early next year.

#### **5. General Business:**

##### **5a. Membership – Graeme Tupper:**

We have 256 active members, 73 expired but renewals are gradually trickling in. 41 new members since December. There are 70-80 institutional members. A review of membership is being undertaken by Graeme Tupper.

##### **4d. Finance – Peter Marin:**

No report tabled

#### 4c. Publications Committee

No report tabled.

#### 6. New Business:

- Results of Special General Meeting – motion passed unopposed.
- Nomination of new fellows Guidelines announced at General meeting and will be asking for nominations by end of February 2011 for consideration at the March meeting of Council. New guidelines to be published in the Newsletter and on Website.
- General Meeting on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September – agenda changed slightly
- Changing articles re:
  - Timeframe for calling meetings (currently 6 weeks) – change to 4 weeks
  - Change notice of meeting timeframe to be more suitable for email, advertise in a range of media such as RMN and on the website, and send letters to those without emails. Revamp membership form. Are you current, are you up to date? Carolyn to reword article and sent around to Council for approval.
- Opportunity to promote the Society at SRM meeting in February 2011. John Taylor will attend – may need to pay for a stand and consider cost share with Rangelands Australia. Need to put up a proposal at our next meeting in November.
- John Taylor proposed a vote of thanks to Carolyn for her work as Secretary of the Society.

#### 7. Correspondence:

##### INWARD

###### MEETING #210

14-Feb-10	Letter	ASIC	Company Statement
14-Feb-10	Email	Natalie Bramble	Request for signature to set up PayPal Account
10-Jun-10	Letter	ASIC	Change to Company Details (John as a Director)
27-Jul-10	Email	Russell Grant	Progress Report for Bourke Conference
27-Jul-10	Email	Ken Hodgkinson	Associate Editor terms and advertising progress
02-Aug-10	Email	Neil McLeod	Travel Grant Report sent to RMN
03-Aug-10	Email	Wal Whalley	Accepting Invitation to Sept 26 meeting
16-Aug-10	Email	Don Burnside	Acceptance to address conference about WA proposal
02-Sep-10	Email	Paul Novelly	Completed WA Conference Proposal
21-Aug-10	Email	David Wilcox	Number of fellows and current membership levels
13-Aug-10	Letter	ASIC	Confirming John Taylor as a Director of the Society

##### OUTWARD

###### MEETING #210

02-Mar-10	Email	Ken H and Wal W	Invitation to Sept 26 Council Meeting
04-Aug-10	Email	Russel Grant	Acknowledgement of Conference Progress Report
05-Aug-10	Email	Ken Hodgkinson	Reporting back on Council Meeting: Request for Associate Editor vacancies, Advertising and CSIRO requirements for General Meeting etc.
19-Aug-10	Email	Ken Hodgkinson	Notices of Special Gen Mtg and General Mtg to web and email to members

19-Aug-10	Email	Russel Grant	Request for Producer Members flyer to satchel
22-Aug-10	Email	David Wilcox	Carolyn's response to his email re membership
16-Aug-10	Email	Ken Hodgkinson	Carolyn asking that the Conference Guidelines be placed on the website
19-Aug-10	Email	Ken Hodgkinson	Carolyn asking that notices of meeting be placed on the website

#### 8. Next meetings

- Meeting 211 of Council will be held by Teleconference on November 25, 2010 at 4 pm Queensland time

#### **Tentative Schedule of meetings for next year**

Thursday January 27

Thursday March 17

Wednesday May 18 – AGM

Thursday July 28

Thursday September 22

Thursday November 24

Wednesday January 25

Meeting adjourned to a Working Lunch on Wednesday 29 September. That meeting closed at 1.30 pm.