



The Australian Rangeland Society

Council meeting No. 221 – 9 February 2012

MINUTES

4pm Queensland Time by Teleconference

1. **Present:** John Taylor, Carolyn Ireland, Graeme Tupper, Ben Forsyth, Annabel Walsh, Peter Marin, Ken Hodgkinson (by invitation), Kate Masters from 5.30 pm.
Apologies: Nil received
 - John welcomed Ken Hodgkinson to the meeting for items 3A-D, 5A-C and 5E
2. **Minutes of previous meeting** Council Meeting 220, 8 December 2011 by teleconference.
Moved: Ben, Seconded: Graeme, Carried (with two corrections)
3. **Business arising from the minutes:**
 - A. Concise Policy and Guidelines and Schedule of fees for Advertising in ARS Publications. Issues raised included concerns that the CSIRO Contract did not cover advertising in any details, especially ethical guidelines or a sliding scale of fees to cover the range from corporate to NFP adverts, . Advice provided by the Chair, Publications Committee (PC) included the point that in the contract CSIRO Publishing is to provide a service as a conduit for advertising in Society publications. All advertising to be channelled through them. In return they get 25% of income. EiC of TRJ decides on appropriateness of advertising in TRJ. Ken thinks it would also be appropriate to give the same responsibility to RMN and Website Editors. Fees have not been decided. Policy and Guidelines must still be general as we are still feeling our way. CSIRO would not accept or reject advertising – this rests with the Editors. Ken advised that a draft schedule could be prepared which incorporated sliding scale of fees and some ethical guidelines as well, and that this should be sent to the PC for input. John: moved that Council develop a broad Policy and Guidelines and Schedule of fees for publications to be sent to the PC and CSIRO for feedback and refinement over time. Seconded: Graeme, Carried. Action: Carolyn, Annabel and John to initiate.
 - B. Rangeland Alliance links for our website. John advised that he has had positive replies from 9 Regional NRM Boards. Reminder to go back to 6 others. Action: John will send these to Carolyn and Russell.
 - C. Changing articles – on hold until the item can be presented to the next AGM.
 - D. Resignation of Ken Hodgkinson as Chair of Publications Committee (PC) in Dec 2012. Issues discussed included: Ken: Statement of Chairman's duties and responsibilities needed – Actions: Ken to do this. Search Group of John Taylor, Peter Johnston, Don Burnside and Wal Whalley to approach people within membership for interest. Also an advertisement on email alert. The PC to consider the expressions of interest. Council to make the final decision. Carolyn to be the contact person for Expressions of Interest and to send them directly to PC. John moved that Council accept the strategy. Seconded: Carolyn, Carried.
 - E. Current financial position. Action: Peter still to provide a consolidated list of abnormal items to Council – he will progress this.

- F. Survey of Membership Fees and Strategy for Cash Reserves. Survey will be initiated by John.
Action: John to send revised survey to Council this week.
- G. Sponsorship opportunities. On hold item until we have feedback through the Membership survey.
- H. Kununurra Conference (standing item on agenda) –
- a. Ben has yet to hear from organising committee. Next meeting proposed for 20 Feb 2012. Action: John to send an email to Ray Bird and Don Burnside that Ben is the replacement for Larissa.
 - b. Minutes of Organising Committee 20 December and 24 January. John: Society needs to be part of the Opening Function. General Meeting of the Society needs to be 1 ½ hours not 1 hour. Action: John to draft an email to Organising Committee regarding both items.
 - c. Council Meeting will be at 3.30 pm Tuesday September 25 Action: Carolyn to arrange
 - d. Action: Graeme to discuss discounted fees with Paul Novelly. Planning to give members a discount, also members who want to join the Society through their registration. Still need a clearer indication. Action: Graeme to send John some words for his letter.
 - e. Request from Sandra van Vreeswyk for more funds. Action: Request an updated budget on a regular basis. Action: Peter, John and Carolyn to review this and come up with a strategy.
 - f. Face book page for conference and afterwards for the ARS. This has been actioned. Needs clarification.
 - g. Signatories for Conference Account have been changed by Peter.
 - h. Ron Hacker has accepted the role Guest Editor for Conference Special Issue. Ken: Not an easy role. Important for Ron to have the Organising Committee tell authors to submit on time. Scheduled for the 4th issue this year. Action: Ben to talk to the Organising Committee about this at the earliest opportunity. Also make the deadline for publications an email alert.
- I. Council and Director Development. On hold until the Membership Survey completed.
- J. Applications for travel grants/scholarship. Noelene Duckett has been verbally notified of her successful application. Helene Aubault is not a member of the Society so did not qualify.

4. General Business:

A. Membership – Graeme Tupper:

Notices of renewal have gone out. Now 92 active members, 204 due to renew. 95 expired members did not renew in 2011. Receiving renewals every day.

B. Finance – Peter Marin:

Current account \$8,000. Savings account \$209,000. Conference account \$900. Total ~\$218,000. BAS due this month. Accounts going to Auditor for AGM. Council noted the information.

C. Publications Committee

Ken: Copyright – PC sees this as Council's responsibility. Needs to be renewed each year. Society needs to be registered. Ken: request that Council investigates its Copyright responsibility. Action: That Council investigates our copyright obligations. Action: Peter will follow this up.

Advisory editors. Ken: PC agreed that 12 Advisory Editors appointed to promote TRJ in their sphere and provide advice to the EiC and the PC. Try to attract people who are well known in

their field with a good global spread. No cost to the Society. Appointments could be made by the PC. PC thinks it will be quite easy to find these people. Action: Ken to send a role statement to Council seeking Council's approval. Council noted this recommendation.

5. **New Business:**

- A. New contract for publishing TRJ between the Society and CSIRO. Council have received a near-final copy, developed by Chris Anderson and Ken Hodgkinson, and endorsed by EiC John Milne and PC. Issues raised included: Clarification of CSIRO's latest insertion; Possible conflicts with the Global Rangeland Repository (GRR), and ARS signatory's address to be the Society's registered address. Ken advised that: The Society has not made the papers in the Journal (only abstracts) available to the GRR because we have a contract with CSIRO Publications which generates income back to the Society. Council has agreed to supply the GRR with the RMN and Proceedings of ARS Conferences, accessed through the Society website. Action: John to sign and send to CSIRO Publishing for completion of the contract. Carolyn: moved that the contract be accepted and signed, Seconded: Peter, Carried. Action: John to sign and send to CSIRO Publishing for completion of the contract.
- B. Publication Committee's request to amend the Articles and Memorandum of Association. Ken advised that a number of amendments were required such as adding the Website as a publication, three editors specified and use of electronic tools. Draft considered, and endorsed by Council 'in principle', but requires PC endorsement. Action: Ken to send the final changes to Carolyn so that they can be advertised in the RMN March issue in time for the AGM. Carolyn: moved that Council signs off in principal subject to endorsement of PC, Seconded: Graeme, Carried.
- C. Reappointment of Associate Editors Esther Mwangi and Bernard Hubert. Ken: gave a short summary of the Associate Editor role. Considered every three years for re-appointment. Bernard has been re-appointed and Esther decided not to continue. PC in the process of appointing further Associated Editors (four) to fill gaps in the range of expertise. Recommendations will come to Council. Carolyn: moved that Bernard Hubert be reappointed for a further three years, Seconded: Annabel, Carried. Action: JohnT to write a letter of appointment for Bernard Hubert and a letter of thanks to Esther Mwangi for her efforts over the past years.
- D. Opening a postal account with Australia Post for hard copy membership reminders and RMN distribution. Action: Peter will get signatures from two directors. Carolyn: moved that Peter open the account, Seconded: Ben, Carried.
- E. The Rangeland Journal Lectures and EiC, John Milne's visit.. Ken and JohnT reported that the lectures very successful, e.g. 120 at Alice Springs, 45 in Brisbane. Journal well exposed and promoted at the lectures, and overall John's visit considered very successful. Looking ahead – the exercise should be repeated in other centres during JohnM's visit for the K12 conference. Videos of speakers on website. JohnT recorded Council's thanks and approval to Ken, PC and local members for organising the lectures. Ben: moved that we encourage PC to negotiate further lectures with John Milne, Seconded: Graeme, Carried.
- F. Holbrook Stipa Conference – Video of proceedings on CD – Annabel Walsh. Annabel provided an example of how valuable a video can be to extend the impact of a conference. Farming Secrets do this very well. Action: Annabel to suggest to this to Don and Paul for the K12 Conference.

- G. 2016 International Year of Rangelands – Annabel Walsh. John: advised that this was only a proposal to the UN at this stage. Item for noting.
- H. 2019 Proposal to hold IRC in Brisbane – Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre offer to support. Item for noting.
- I. AW Howard Trust – grant worth up to \$20,000. This has been advertised on the website and will also be promoted in the March RMN. Item for noting.
- J. Suggested Dates for 2012 Council Meetings
 Council Meeting Wednesday 4 April
 AGM Wednesday 23 May
 Council Meeting 26 July
 Council Meeting 25 September 3.30 pm at Kununurra
 General Meeting of the Society Thursday 27 September at Kununurra
 Council Meeting Thursday 6 December
 Council Meeting Thursday 24 January 2013

**6. Correspondence:
 INWARDS**

| <i>MEETING #221</i> | | | |
|---------------------|--------|-------------------------------|--|
| 20-Dec-11 | Letter | AW Howard Memorial Trust | Invitation to Members to apply for award |
| 20-Dec-11 | Email | B Fleeton Chamber of Mines WA | Request for last two conference programs |
| 28-Dec-11 | Email | Ron Hacker | Accepting invitation to become an Associate Editor |
| 11-Jan-12 | Email | Russell Grant | Requesting permission to spend \$462 on the website |
| 23-Jan-12 | Email | Tim Frodsham | Requesting assistance with a rehab project |
| 25-Jan-12 | Email | Ken Hodgkinson | Regarding Changes to the Constitution |
| 01-Feb-12 | Email | Ken Hodgkinson | Attaching CSIRO Publishing Contract for consideration by Council |
| 06-Feb-12 | Email | Brian Cooke | Thanks for OAM congratulations |
| 07-Feb-12 | Email | Sue Pigdon | Seeking Links for AFAC (fire services) with K12 conf |

OUTWARDS

| <i>MEETING #221</i> | | | |
|---------------------|--------|----------------------------------|---|
| 13-Dec-11 | Email | Ken Hodgkinson | Notifying that John Taylor (with Annabel Walsh as backup) is nominated as Council's rep on Search Group |
| 20-Dec-11 | Email | Peter Johnston and Russell Grant | Forwarding B Fleeton's request for last two conference programs |
| 23-Dec-11 | Letter | Hon Wendy Duncan | Kununurra Org Com thanking her for accepting invitation |
| 12-Jan-12 | Email | Carolyn to Russell | Approving payment of \$462 to upgrade website |
| 23-Jan-12 | Email | Tim Frodsham | Passing Tim's request to suitable members |
| 25-Jan-12 | Email | Ken Hodgkinson | Response regarding changes to constitution |
| 27-Jan-12 | Email | Brian Cooke | Congratulations on receiving OAM |
| 01-Feb-12 | Email | Ken Hodgkinson | Several emails re the CSIRO Publishing Contract |

7. Next meeting –

The next meeting of Council will be held by teleconference on 4 April 2012 at 4 pm Queensland Time

Meeting closed at 6.15 pm, Queensland time.