



The Australian Rangeland Society

Council meeting No. 230

MINUTES

6 pm Queensland Time via Teleconference – Wednesday 27 March 2013

1. **Present:** John Taylor (Chair), Carolyn Ireland, Graeme Tupper, Peter Marin, Annabel Walsh
Apologies: Kate Masters (Kate is overseas until approximately May 2013), Larissa Lauder
2. **Minutes of previous meeting** The Minutes of Council Meeting 229, 23 January 2013 by teleconference were approved. **Moved:** Annabel, Seconded: Peter, Carried.
3. **Business arising from the minutes:**
 - A. Concise Policy and Guidelines and Schedule of fees for Advertising in ARS Publications. **Action:** Carolyn to send these fees to Russell and Noelene for publication on the website and in RMN. **Item closed.**
 - B. Resignation of Ken Hodgkinson as Chair of Publications Committee (PC) in Dec 2012. Publications Committee (PC) has two high quality applicants. Ken is scheduling a meeting for all PC members to vote. Council may need to vote out of session.
 - C. Survey of Membership
 - a. Summary has been written for RMN and Website (John and Carolyn). **Action:** Carolyn to place results on Website. **Item closed.**
 - b. Increase Indigenous involvement. Peter has mapped out a plan of attack and talked to some of the Aboriginal Corporations. **Action:** Peter will report back to Council.
 - c. Initiate a web conference via Future Farmers (Ben). On Hold until Ben reports.
 - d. Membership Fees and Strategy for Cash Reserves: Summary in Survey Results fairly clear – getting value for money for their fees. What would people be prepared to pay for? Not supported by membership survey. **Item closed.**
 - e. Sponsorship opportunities. Little positive response in the membership survey. **Item closed.**
 - f. Council and Director Development. Not supported by membership survey, however Council considers that we should seek more information and endeavour to have Council Members keep up to date with governance matters. **Action:** Carolyn and Annabel to try to find out more about courses that are available with sponsorship for Not-For-Profit Board Members. Promotion of the ARS and the rangelands. Identified as a medium priority for use of Council resources. **Action:** Annabel to come up with a strategy at the

next meeting of opportunities for us to promote the Rangelands.

- D. Next Conference in the Northern Territory. Our dates for September 2014 clash with the Ecological Society of Australia (ESA) Meeting. Alice Springs ARS members have held a meeting. This meeting, held to discuss the potential for an ARS Conference in Alice Springs, was attended by 18 people, including Bill Low as facilitator, Christine Schlesinger outlining ESA plans and Margaret Friedel outlining ARS perspectives. The meeting considered three options:
1. Run both conferences concurrently and share some activities and probably the PCO
 2. Hand the conference back for allocation to another state
 3. Defer the conference until 2015
- There was broad consensus that option 1 was the course to follow. Alice Springs members would like a decision from Council on this matter as the number of people in Alice Springs is too small to run two committees. Council concurred with this – but there were concerns about finances and retaining our identity (ie. we don't want to be swamped by a bigger conference). Rangelands sessions need to be distinctive, but there was merit in shared sessions. Concerns were raised about a joint PCO.
Action: John to draft a response to Margaret responding positively and expressing our concerns and circulate to Council for comment.
- E. Review of Guidelines for Travel Grants and Scholarships. Item on hold until after the AGM.
- F. Motion re Rangelands Australia. John declared a conflict of interest. Peter took the Chair. Ben Forsyth has been pleased with the sub-committee's progress and will report later.
- G. Kununurra Conference Report and Minutes of the Organising Committee Final Meeting. **Action:** John to write to Paul with Council's congratulations and highlighting the report's value to future conferences.
- H. ARS Archive stored at Middleback Station. **Actions:** Move Archive to Adelaide, Annabel and Carolyn will review the material and then move it to Moorna Station.
- I. Australian Rangeland Initiative meeting attended by Peter. **Action:** Peter to provide a written report to Council.

4. General Business:

A. Membership – Graeme Tupper:

ARS now has 189 active members. 90 not yet renewed for 2013 – for a total of 279. Website problems and a problem with Graeme's hard disc has meant that membership processing is behind schedule. Printed newsletters have not been sent out.

B. Finance – Peter Marin:

Current account \$2568.02. Savings account \$204,518.02. Conference account \$1,422.80. Total ~\$208,508.91. All payments for Kununurra account finalized. **Action:** Peter to send Profit and Loss for 2012 to Council.

C. Publications Committee

Recommendation to Council that James Wright is appointed as Editor of the ARS Twitter Site. Council sought more information from Ken. Ken has yet to reply.

5. New Business:

- A. Succession planning for departure of half of Council in two years. **Action:** Council to consider who to target over the next month (skills and geographic spread) and bring suggestions to the next Council Meeting in July. **Action:** Carolyn to approach Noelene to take the Minutes at the next Council Meeting.
- B. Notice of meeting for the AGM May 23. Draft endorsed and now loaded onto website.
- C. Consider changing the timing of Council Meetings so that members who work full-time can attend more regularly. Council agreed that they are happy with the current arrangements.
- D. Graeme proposed that the Council congratulate John Taylor for his award from the Society for Range Management. Seconded: Carolyn, Carried unanimously.

6. Correspondence:

INCOMING

05-Feb-13	Email	Marg Friedel and Ashley Sparrow	NT bid for 2014 ARS Conference
04-Mar-13	Email	Marg Friedel	Seeking information and paperwork re Conferences
14-Mar-13	Email	Lester Pahl	Requesting a travel grant

OUTGOING

30-Jan-13	Email	Camilla Osborn	NT bid for 2014 ARS Conference
30-Jan-13	Email	NT ARS Members	NT bid for 2014 ARS Conference
31-Jan-13	Email	Ken Hodginson	Seeking more information re Proposed Editor of Twitter
05-Feb-13	Email	Marg Friedel and Ashley Sparrow	NT bid for 2014 ARS Conference
06-Feb-13		AW Howard Memorial Trust	2013 Grants and scholarships related to pasture research
04-Mar-13	Email	Marg Friedel	Sending paperwork regarding Conferences
10-Mar-13	Email	Marg Friedel	Sending more paperwork regarding Conferences
15-Mar-13	Email	Lester Pahl	Recommending applying for an AW Howard Grant

7. Next meeting –

The next meeting of Council will be the AGM to be held at 37 Pioneer Crescent, Bellbowrie, Queensland and by teleconference on Thursday 23 May 2013 at 6 pm Queensland time.

The next full Council Meeting will be held by teleconference on Thursday July 25. Carolyn will be an apology and Council will need to decide who will take the Minutes at this meeting.

Meeting closed at 7.45 pm Queensland time.