



# The Australian Rangeland Society

Council meeting No. 236

## MINUTES

6pm Queensland Time on Tuesday 28 January 2014 via Teleconference

1. **Present:** John Taylor (Chair), Carolyn Ireland, Annabel Walsh, Graeme Tupper, David Phelps, Peter Marin

**Apologies:** Kate Masters, Ben Forsyth

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** The Minutes of Council Meeting 235 on Tuesday 3 December 2013 by teleconference were approved. Moved: Graeme, Seconded: David, Carried.

3. **Business arising from the minutes:**

- A. Member Survey

- a. Indigenous involvement – Peter – deferred to next meeting
- b. Future Farmers – Ben – deferred to next meeting
- c. Council Governance
  - i. Template/table for capturing Governance training and experience of Council Members has been circulated by John to Peter. **Action:** All to fill in
  - ii. There is a role to for members to look for governance training opportunities (item closed)
  - iii. Suggestion of a one-day Governance Seminar at Alice Springs Conference to be forwarded to the NT Organising Committee.
  - iv. Strategic Plan. John has circulated some information regarding this. **Action:** All Members of Council to review and provide feedback to David by 1 March 2014. **Action:** All Council Members to enrich or comment on John's word and send on to David by 1<sup>st</sup> March **Action:** Carol to remind everyone by 20 February

- B. 2015 Conference in Alice Springs 12 – 16 April 2015

Organising Committee has a meeting this Friday with a major presentation by Ray Bird with costs. Sally Leigo has requested a list of ARS members for publicity purposes. There may be some issue of privacy and members feel that contact details should be restricted to email addresses. An alternative is to do this through the Society database. Council agreed that the latter was the preferred method of communication. **Action:** Request declined because we do not do this without members' consent and if they have any communiqués they should send them to Russell for circulation. John to email them with our decision. **Action:** John to circulate the December and all subsequent Minutes of the Organising Committee.

- C. Motion re Rangeland Australia

**Action:** John to review draft report and make factual corrections to the report and forward Ben (c.c. to Council) and his group for rewriting as an article for March 2014 RMN.

- D. ARS Archive at Middleback Station – Annabel and Carolyn to sort the ARS records that have moved to Des Coleman’s Office at the Waite Institute.
- E. Rangeland Initiative Meeting and outcomes – Have received a major grant for a “Rangeland Data Hub”. **Action:** Peter to chase this up.
- F. Succession Planning: **Action:** John to draft a short article for the newsletter and website. A draft to be circulated for comment. **Action:** Members of Council to send names of people to Carolyn 1 March 2014. **Action:** Carolyn to remind February 20. **Action:** Ben to outline his thoughts re: paying for services. Carolyn to remind him.
- G. Planning for the SA bid for the September 2016 Conference - Ongoing **Action:** Carolyn and Peter to progress this and have a bid up for approval at the Alice Springs Conference in April 2015.
- H. Status of Graeme Hand’s Travel Grant Application. Annabel declared a conflict of interest and declined to comment. Referees initially gave a positive feedback. David however, had strong views about the methodology. Council decided that we would not fund a competing methodology as proposed by the proponent. David is prepared to work with Graeme and John to add value to the project? **Action:** have concerns with current proposal and would like to work with Graeme to promote something that fits with the National Mongolian approach. David and John to progress this to consider again for our March meeting.

#### 4. **General business:**

##### A. **Membership – Graeme Tupper – noted by Council**

ARS now has 74 active members. There are 265 who are due to renew. Graeme has been through all non-renewing members for the last few years. Renewal notice went out to all on the list. Laptop not working at the moment. Printed Newsletter was unfortunately late, but was posted today.

##### B. **Finance – Peter Marin – noted by Council**

Position healthy. There is \$190,477.86 across all accounts with \$12,949.65 in the everyday account, \$11,228.18 in the conference account and \$166,300.03 in the online saver account.

##### C. **Publications Committee – Report from the Chair, Ron Hacker – noted by Council**

Publications Committee will meet on 5 February 2014.

#### 5. **New business:**

- A. Letter from Terrestrial Species Conservation Section, Wildlife, Heritage and Marine Division of Federal Department of the Environment asking for a submission about Waterpoints in the Rangeland as a Key Threatening Process. Annabel’s Stipa Group has formulated a response and suggests that we make a joint response with them. USDA did some interesting publications pulled together a comprehensive report about conservation outcomes of pastoral practices. **Action:** David to capture benefits and non-benefits in a draft and send around to Council for response before the deadline. **Action:** Annabel to remove ARS name for the Stipa document.
- B. Emails from and to El Mostafa Darfaoui of the Ministry of Agriculture, Saudi Arabia seeking assistance with FAO study tour. We should try to assist by identifying people. Society can help with a list of places to go and a possible contact, but they need a professional organizer. **Action:** Council to look at letter and suggest names and places to John. **Action:** John to contact ACIAR for further information on Australia/Saudi links.

## 6. Correspondence

### INCOMING

09-Dec-13	Email	Camilla Osborn/Ray Bird	Venues for 2014 Conference and Minutes of Meeting
11-Dec-13	Email	Neil MacLeod	Acceptance of Award of Travel Grant 2014
12-Dec-13	Email	Graeme and June Tupper	Acceptance of Award of Travel Grant 2014
18-Dec-13	Email	Wal Whalley	Acceptance of invitation to continue as member of Publications Com
18-Dec-13	Email	Ken Hodgkinson	Acceptance of invitation to continue as member of Publications Com
18-Dec-13	Letter	Aust Government	Re: Threatening Processes in the Arid Lands
23-Dec-13	Email	Andrew Ash	Acceptance of invitation to continue as member of Publications Com
23-Jan-14	Email	El Mostafa Darfaoui	Seeking assistance with FAO Study Tour
28-Jan-14	Email	David Eldridge	Acceptance of invitation to continue as member of Publications Com

### OUTGOING

11-Dec-13	Email	Graeme and June Tupper	Award of Travel Grant 2014
11-Dec-13	Email	Neil MacLeod	Award of Travel Grant 2014
11-Dec-13	Email	Margaret Friedel	Response re student sponsorship for 2015 Conference
12-Dec-13	Email	Alois Hlatshwayo	Rejection of Travel Grant Application
12-Dec-13	Email	Mohamed Abdelkreim	Rejection of Travel Grant Application
18-Dec-13	Email	Andrew Ash	Invitation to become a member of the Publications Com
18-Dec-13	Email	Ron Hacker	Council decisions re Publications Com matters
18-Dec-13	Email	Wal Whalley	Invitation to continue as member of Publications Com
18-Dec-13	Email	David Eldridge	Invitation to continue as member of Publications Com
18-Dec-13	Email	Ken Hodgkinson	Invitation to continue as member of Publications Com
18-Dec-13	Email	Peter Johnston	Thanks for service to Publications Committee
18-Dec-13	Email	Ron Hacker	Completed Contract for Savanna issue of TRJ
27-Jan-14	Email	El Mostafa Darfaoui	Responding to email re FAO Study Tour

## 7. Next Meeting

The next Council Meeting will be held by teleconference on 26 March 2014 at 6 pm Queensland time.