



Council meeting No. 250

**MINUTES**

6 pm QLD Time – Wednesday 3 February 2016 by Teleconference

1. **Present:** David Phelps (Chair), Don Burnside, Carol Ireland, Dionne Walsh, Gus Whyte, Megan Munchenberg, Cathy Waters

**Apologies:** Andrew Ash

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** The Minutes of Council Meeting 249 on Wednesday 2 December 2015 held by teleconference were approved. Moved: Don, Seconded: Dionne, Carried

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

- A. Strategic Plan (David). All members have had an opportunity to comment. The next action is for Council to have a look at Strategies starting with David. We are already addressing some of these. We should also have deadlines (target dates and who is to implement).

**Action:** David to comment on Strategies and circulate to Council for other comments by the next meeting

- B. South Australian bid for the 2017 Conference. A Professional Conference Organiser (PCO) has been appointed. A selection committee comprising Chair Jen Cleary, John Gavin and Carolyn Ireland was convened to assess three tender proposals. The tender was won by a local group, Pure Outback. They are well known to several of our Organising Committee (OC) and come with outstanding referee reports from Vol Norris and Judy Radcliffe from the Lake Eyre Basin Secretariat. The OC were very keen to employ someone from the local area. This appointment will necessitate the establishment of seed funding to the Conference cheque account and the addition of two extra signatories – suggest Chair Jen Cleary or Secretary Jodie Gregg Smith and the Treasurer Peter Marin.

**Moved:** By Don that \$10,000 be transferred to the Conference Cheque Account and that the OC nominate another signatory other than Peter Marin. **Seconded:** Cathy. **Carried.**

Selection of a Program Committee and a Schedule with Milestones will be considered at the next meeting on Saturday February 13. Don Burnside will attend for Council.

Council is very concerned about the Conference making a profit – a long discussion followed around sponsorship. Don has made notes and will convey these thoughts to the OC.

**Action:** Don to transfer \$10,000 to the Conference account and OC find one more signatory.

**Action:** Don to convey Council's concerns and suggestions to the OC.

**Action:** Carol/Don to keep Council informed of progress.

- C. Sandfire Resources Sponsorship (Ben). Deferred to next meeting.

**Action:** David to pursue this with Ben

- D. Daryl Green's Motion at the AGM regarding the future of ACRIS and subsequent writing of a Ministerial (David and Daryl). Council have been waiting for a report from the Federal Government before writing the letter, but availability of the report is now in doubt. A letter will now be drafted without the report for approval at the next meeting.

**Action:** Cathy, Daryl and Andrew to assist David to draft a Ministerial supporting the retention of ACRIS, Gary Bastin to be asked to look at the letter.

E. Succession Planning for a new Secretary (Carol)

Carol retires at the AGM in 2017, but would like to hand over the role of Secretary well before that to enable a smooth transition.

**Action:** Carol to send Don's advertisement out as an email alert.

**Action:** Don to circulate list of ARS members to Council for "head-hunting" purposes!

4. **General business:**

A. **Membership – Annabel Walsh and Graeme Tupper**

**From Annabel:** The ARS members' subscriptions have been managed for 8+ years by Graeme Tupper. Due to the tyranny of distance we are still in hand over mode and hope to have this rectified by March when I will be in Dubbo for several days to attend a workshop or Graeme heads south, either way be assured that the business end will continue to be overseen very ably by Graeme. This period has seen the most incredible changes in the sub membership management system, Graeme has nurtured the subscription process through these changes with confidence, consideration and coped with the odd irate complaint with quiet accord. The member subs are now managed using the societies new web site, it has taken many hours and much input from the committee and I am sure there will be further tweaking over the course of the following years.

I attended the IGC in Dheli in November armed with ARS promotional material. Time will tell if the effort was effective but it was a good way to strike up a conversation and the journals were thumbed through with interest.

**From Graeme:** *the new website seems to be performing quite well, with automatic notifications when a member renews or a new member subscribes. The Sub. Manager also keeps what I refer to as the OLD Database, which goes back to year dot, keeping a record of all who have been and are current members, their dates of joining and/ or ceasing to be a member.*

*Current membership is 216, which includes several ARS Fellows (Honorary), Associate editors (Ex-officio) and organisations who receive copies of ARS publications such as the Journal, meeting statutory requirements.*

*Since the November issue of the RMN there have been 5 new members, so we continue to receive new memberships, although we usually do not know how they have come into contact with the Society.*

**Action:** Carol to get a copy of the OLD Data Base from Graeme

**Action:** David to get Graeme/Camilla to send out a reminder notice and fix the lack of access for members between Jan 1 and March 31.

**Action:** Cathy to attend meeting in Dubbo,

**Action:** Carol to send a couple of examples of Graeme' report to Cathy

B. **Finance – Don Burnside/Peter Marin – Don Burnside for Peter Marin**

**i) Profit and Loss to end of December 2015.** Report tabled by Don there is Our loss in 2015 was \$19,051 and at 31 December 2015 we had \$124,546 in cash on hand, and an expected payment of \$13,424 in GST rebate to come in at some stage in 2016. Some costs that were paid in January were incurred in 2015 which will add to our loss in 2016. Our current balance as at 31 January 2016 is now \$105,919.

**Moved:** By Don to accept the financial statements. **Seconded,** Carol. **Carried.**

Dionne queried whether payment had been received for the Special Issue Climate Clever Beef in 2015 – not shown in the P&L.

**Action:** David and Don to investigate.

**ii) Draft Budget for 2016**

Draft Budget tabled by Don. There are a number of heroic assumptions in the budget, especially concerning how much conference income and outgo will occur this year, and

how much we will save in costs with the RMN going electronic. As it stands, the projected loss is \$27,755 including conference transactions, and after any conference transactions are removed, the projected loss reduces to \$16,755. Don explained that the budget is a 'live document' and will be updated with any new information. Noted by Council.

### **iii) Multiple year memberships.**

Report by Don tabled. Council showed its appreciation for all the work Don has put into this. Council should provide this option for members. In 2017 we will raise membership rates and the suggestion was made to action this at the same time. Council accepted this in principle.

**Action:** Don to alert Camilla and Annabel that this will happen in 2017.

### **iv) Financing The Rangeland Journal**

The Journal costs us a lot of money. Net position of TRJ is around \$13,600 loss per annum. Institutional subscriber charges must surely influence what they charge us. 95 international subscribers and they get their subscriptions cheaper than many other journals. Can we raise the cost to institutional subscribers so that we can pay a little less? Useful background information but more importantly we will be going into negotiation for the next three or five years. Need to work a harder bargain where we become more cost neutral. Council noted this report with thanks to Don. Why are we not seeing a rise in income from the Journal? Need to have that conversation with CSIRO Publishing. Information noted by Council.

### **v) Appointment of Auditor, Mike Levy of Lee Green and Co**

**Moved:** by Don that the Auditor be reappointed. **Seconded:** Carol, **Carried**

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

The Publications Committee met on 20 January 2016. This was the first meeting attended by the recently appointed Web Site Editor (Ms Camilla Osborn) and Social Media Editor (Ms Amber Marshall). Matters for Council consideration arising from this meeting are:

### **1. The Rangeland Journal**

Severe flooding in India delayed the printing of Vol 37/6 which was not distributed to members by the end of the year, although published on-line. CSIRO Publishing advised on 21 January that hard copies had been posted (apparently in India) that day. It seems unlikely that this issue will affect publication of TRJ in 2016. Nevertheless the first issue of 2016 (Special Issue on the Australian Feral Camel Management Project) will be slightly late due to delays in revision/acceptance of some of the papers. (Subsequent advice from Wal Whalley indicates that it may be necessary to substitute a normal issue for this Special Issue as Vol 36/1).

The newly appointed Editor in Chief, Dr Paul Novelly, will visit Armidale in the week of 15 February to arrange hand over matters with Wal Whalley. CSIRO Publishing has indicated that they will participate in this meeting either in person or by teleconference/Skype.

Dr Jocelyn Davies is finalising a contract with Prof Gao Qingzhu (Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences) for a Special Issue dealing with climate change in Mongolian grasslands to be published in 2017. This special Issue will complement other Special Issues published in recent years on Chinese ecosystems, particularly in relation to climate change. Dr Davies will be the Australian Co-Editor for the issue. The contract will be forwarded to the President for amendment/signature when acceptable to the Chinese.

There are now four Special Issues under consideration by the PC (including the above) so that the available slots in 2017 and 2018 will be filled if all come to fruition.

There is some confusion in relation to GST regarding the fee charged by ARS for Special Issues. The PC passed a motion 'that the cost of Special Issues should be \$10,000 exclusive of GST'.

**Recommendation 1. That Council confirm a price of \$10,000 (exclusive of GST) for publication of Special Issues. – Council accepted this recommendation.**

## **2. Call for tenders for publication of The Rangeland Journal**

PC considered the process and time line for calling tenders for a new publishing contract to replace the current contract with CSIRO Publishing which expires in December 2016. PC agree on a two stage process with a call for expressions of interest issued by 28 February, tenders submitted by 31 May and a decision made by 31 July. This time line is necessary to allow the appointed publisher to arrange international subscriptions for 2017. An information package, to be provided to those answering the call for expressions of interest, will be prepared by 28 February. Since this is a major commitment for ARS, which will probably require out-of-session decisions, I would appreciate guidance as to the level of involvement that Council wishes to have in the process.

**Recommendation 2. That Council determine the level of its involvement in the process of finalising a new publication contract for The Rangeland Journal and advise the Chair of the Publications Committee.**

**Recommendation of Council:** Council will provide broad guidelines but the PC should handle the detailed aspects. Council would like to ratify the contract and the PC makes a recommendation to Council who then ratify the recommended publisher based on the broad guidelines provided to the PC. Council will provide the guidelines to PC as soon as possible, which will include membership and financial goals as well as the production of a world class Journal.

**Action:** Don, David and Carol to send some guidelines around to the rest of Council.

## **3. Range Management Newsletter**

No major issues to report. Now that the RMN has moved to on-line publication only it would be appropriate for Council to thank Graeme Tupper for the many years of service that he has provided to the ARS by handling the printing and postage of the hard copy version.

**Recommendation 3. That Council formally acknowledge the service of Graeme Tupper in the printing and distribution of the RMN. – Council accepted this recommendation.**

## **4. Website**

Camilla Osborn has received training from Fat Beehive in use of the Content Management System and is now in a position to actively manage postings to the site. A significant amount of material which has been digitised but not posted (pending establishment of the new site) now needs to be uploaded (e.g. archival copies of RMN and biennial conference proceedings). Camilla will work on this over coming months.

## **5. Social Media**

The hand over from Wright Social to the ARS Social Media Editor (SME) has been smooth and Amber Marshall reported that the number of 'likes' has since grown at about the same rate as before the hand-over. It is essential that the Social Media Editor has access to the Members Area of the web site but this is currently not available - see below.

The PC accepted the draft documents prepared by Heidi Wright (Social Media Engagement Strategy 2015-17, Policy and Guidelines for Social Media Use, Conditions of Use) as valuable internal documents to guide the Society's use of social media over the next few years. The PC agreed that they be combined into one document as a 'handbook' for the SME and this will occur shortly.

## **6. Complimentary Membership of ARS**

The following table indicates the conditions of appointment of officers of the society in relation to payment of an honorarium and waiver of membership fees for the duration of appointment. I am not aware of the conditions that attach to Council members. Obviously there is some inconsistency in the way in which benefits have been provided for appointees and as far as I am aware there is no formal policy on the matter. Attention has been drawn to this issue because the new web site denies access to the Members Area unless one's subscription has been renewed for 2016. The PC resolved that I should recommend a policy on this matter to Council while also agreeing that in the interim the Web Site Editor would contact Fat Beehive to obtain access to the Members Area for Camilla Osborn,

Amber Marshall and myself.

POSITION	HONORARIUM	WAIVER OF MEMBERSHIP FEES
Editor in Chief, The Rangeland Journal	\$4,000	Yes
Chair, Publications Committee	\$2,500	Yes
Web Site Editor	\$2,500	No
Social Media Editor	\$2,500	No
RMN editor	\$2,500	No
Associate Editors	Nil	Yes
Advisory Editors	Nil	No

A reasonable policy might be for complimentary membership of the Society to be extended to:

- all appointments that attract an Honorarium and
- Associate Editors of TRJ.

The latter may require access to archival issues of TRJ as part of their role and should not be expected to pay a subscription in order to achieve it. Once a firm policy is established it will be necessary to define the protocol by which the web site is updated to allow complimentary access. This may require Council or the PC to provide an annual list of complimentary memberships to the Subscription Secretary. However, there may be alternative mechanisms.

Council discussed this item at length and it was agreed that the Social Media Editor, the RMN Editor and Web Site Editor need access to the member's area of the website. However, it was determined that this would be provided as open access for the positions rather than complimentary membership to the position holder. Should the individuals within these positions wish full Member benefits of the ARS, the individuals will need to be financial members. Council determined that an Honorarium plus complimentary Membership was appropriate for the Editor-in-Chief and Chair of the PC. Council also agreed that Associate Editors should receive complimentary Membership as recognition for their voluntary contribution.

**Recommendation 4. That Council:**

- (a) Establish a policy regarding provision of complimentary membership to Council appointees; – Council accepted this recommendation and determined that:**

***The Editor-in-Chief and Chair of the PC receive complementary membership, in addition to their honorarium, in recognition of the crucial overarching roles they have in the success of the Journal. These are awarded to the individuals whilst they hold the positions. At the end of an appointed term, membership will extend to the end of the calendar year.***

***The current Associate Editors receive complementary membership, but no honorarium, in recognition of their contribution to success of the Journal. This is awarded to the individuals whilst they hold the positions. At the end of an appointed term, membership will extend to the end of the calendar year.***

***Advisory Editors, whilst serving an important function, receive neither honorarium nor complementary membership.***

***The Social Media Editor, the RMN Editor and Web Site Editor, receive an honorarium for their contribution to ARS publications beyond the Journal. This is awarded to the individuals for so long as they hold the positions.***

***The Social Media Editor, the RMN Editor and Web Site Editor positions will be provided with access to the Members' Area of the ARS web site and any other permissions required for the role of Editor to be undertaken.***

***However, the individuals holding these positions are not provided complementary membership. Should the individuals wish access to all Membership benefits (voting, access to travel grants, conference discounts etc) they will need to be financial members in their own right.***

***Individuals recognised as Fellows of the Society should receive complementary membership in recognition to their service the Society and the art and science of rangeland management.***

**The Publications Committee will provide Council with an updated list of names of the people to receive complimentary membership and full website access each year, no later than the 1st of March, for ratification. Council will provide the website manager with the ratified list of names to provide website access.**

**(b) Determine a protocol by which the functionality of the web site can recognise the rights of complimentary members – Council accepted this recommendation and asked that the Website Editor Camilla Osborn facilitate this action.**

**Action:** Council establish a policy regarding complimentary membership to Council appointees

**Action:** David to convey all of Council's decisions to Ron Hacker

## 5. New business:

A. "Creating a Modern Outback Forum" (David, Andrew)

Andrew and Megan are attending this meeting. Kate Forrest and David are talking about this. How much input should Council have in this? We would like to be involved in the policy paper.

**Action:** Cathy will talk to Kate about our involvement and report back out-of-session.

B. TTTT grant potential (David)

Grant round has just closed. We could probably tap into these via other groups. Line up funding to send people to conferences or organize forums or workshops. There is quite a lot of potential out there. It may be a way for us to sponsor landholders to attend conferences.

Noted by Council. Leave on Agenda.

C. Council made an out-of-session decision to approve the following recommendations of the Publications Committee. These decisions need to be recorded in the Minutes:

1. The appointment of Dr Paul Novelly as Editor-in-Chief of the Rangeland Journal for a three year term
2. Funding the cost of a visit by Paul to Armidale to effect an orderly transition between him and Wal Whalley.

D. Massey University (NZ) proposed bid for the 2020 IRC

Dana Kelly was approached b Massey University with a bid for the 2020 Conference.

Massey would be happy to link in with us if this is what we want. Convene a special meeting to discuss this and include John Taylor, Ron Hacker and Dana Kelly. Dana Kelly to be asked for more information from the Massey Organising Committee.

**Action:** Council to email specific questions to David for Dana.

**Action:** Carol and David to convene a meeting of Council to discuss this before 19 Feb

## 6. Correspondence

### INCOMING

21-Oct-15	Email	Iain Wright	Acceptance of Re-appointment as Advisory Editor
21-Oct-15	Email	Iain Gordon	Acceptance of Re-appointment as Advisory Editor
22-Oct-15	Email	D. Wang	Acceptance of Re-appointment as Advisory Editor
22-Oct-15	Email	Joel Brown	Acceptance of Re-appointment as Advisory Editor
26-Oct-15	Email	Prof Osvaldo Sala	Acceptance of Re-appointment as Advisory Editor
07-Dec-15	Email	Sarah McDonald	Acceptance of Travel Grant
07-Dec-15	Email	John Gavin	Acceptance of Travel Grant
07-Dec-15	Email	Kate Forrest	Acceptance of Travel Grant
20-Dec-15	Email	Tony Pressland	Acceptance of Re-appointment as Associate Editor
21-Dec-15	Email	Neil McLeod	Acceptance of Re-appointment as Associate Editor
21-Dec-15	Email	Prof J Huang	Acceptance of Re-appointment as Advisory Editor
21-Dec-15	Email	Margaret Friedel	Acceptance of Re-appointment as Advisory Editor
23-Dec-15	Email	Pauline Dube	Acceptance of Re-appointment as Associate Editor
23-Dec-15	Email	Ann Waters-Bayer	Acceptance of Re-appointment as Advisory Editor

24-Jan-16 Email Paul Novelty Acceptance of position as Editor-in-Chief of TRJ

#### **OUTGOING**

03-Dec-15	Email	Graeme Tupper	Approval to defer Travel Grant until April/May 2016
03-Dec-15	Email	Noelene Duckett	2016 Subscription rates to be published in RMN
06-Dec-15	Email	Organising Committee 2017	Approval of the Conference Proposal and some suggestions
06-Dec-15	Email	Sarah McDonald	Approval of Travel Grant Application
06-Dec-15	Email	John Gavin	Approval of Travel Grant Application
06-Dec-15	Email	Kate Forrest	Approval of Travel Grant Application
06-Dec-15	Email	Ravinesh Deo	Rejection of Travel Grant Application
06-Dec-15	Email	Pieter Conradie and Organising Com	Formal letter of thanks to the Organising Committee of the 2015 Alice Springs Conference
20-Dec-15	Email	Pauline Dube	Re-appointment as Associate Editor
20-Dec-15	Email	Neil McLeod	Re-appointment as Associate Editor
20-Dec-15	Email	Tony Pressland	Re-appointment as Associate Editor
20-Dec-15	Email	Joel Brown	Re-appointment as Advisory Editor
20-Dec-15	Email	Margaret Friedel	Re-appointment as Advisory Editor
20-Dec-15	Email	Iain Gordon	Re-appointment as Advisory Editor
20-Dec-15	Email	Prof J Huang	Re-appointment as Advisory Editor
20-Dec-15	Email	Prof Osvaldo Sala	Re-appointment as Advisory Editor
20-Dec-15	Email	D. Wang	Re-appointment as Advisory Editor
20-Dec-15	Email	Ann Waters-Bayer	Re-appointment as Advisory Editor
20-Dec-15	Email	Iain Wright	Re-appointment as Advisory Editor
20-Dec-15	Email	Camilla Osborn	Invitation to become Website Editor
20-Dec-15	Email	Netta Milne	Informing her of John Milne Memorial TRJ Lecture
21-Dec-15	Email	Brian Cooke	Thanks for service as an Associate Editor
21-Dec-15	Email	Brian Walker	Thanks for service as an Associate Editor
20-Jan-16	Letter	Paul Novelty	Appointment as Editor-in-Chief of The Rangeland Journal

#### **7. Next Meeting**

The next Council Meeting will be by Teleconference on 30 March 2016 at 5 pm QLD time.

Meeting closed at 9.30 pm