



The Australian Rangeland Society

Council Meeting No. 254

MINUTES

6 pm QLD Time – Wednesday 5 October 2016 by Teleconference

1. **Present:** David Phelps (Chair), Don Burnside, Dionne Walsh, Carol Ireland, Cathy Waters, Andrew Ash, Megan Munchenberg, Gus Whyte
Bob Shepherd and Dana Kelly as visitors – David introduced them both

Apologies: None

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** The Minutes of Council Meeting 253 on Wednesday 3 August 2016 held by teleconference were approved. Moved: Dionne, Seconded: Andrew, **Carried**

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

A. Strategic Plan (David).

Cathy and Gus provided an update of progress of attracting landholder members into the ARS, which they will continue to pursue.

Andrew has spoken to Clare Taylor about a weekly email bulletin; this is do-able but very time consuming. Regular contact with members is important

Action: Cathy and Gus will provide feedback after discussions have taken place.

Action: Council to consider if a weekly or monthly email bulletin is appropriate, and to work out who might be available to take on the job from within ARS or as a paid role

Action: Cathy to send Andrew one from NSW

B. Port Augusta 2017 Conference (Carol/ Don)

- Recent Minutes of the Organising Committee (OC) and the Program Committee were circulated to Council on 24 August
- John Gavin has been confirmed as the new Chair
- Call for abstracts is going out very soon
- Sponsorship Subcommittee of Council
- Next meeting of the Organising Committee is 15 October and the Program Committee is 12 November, Both Carol and Don in attendance
- Conference will be one day shorter than Alice Springs
- Information is already on the ARS website

Action: Don and Carol to keep Council informed

Action: Don and Carol to request that the PCO Contract be signed

- C. Sandfire Resources Sponsorship (Ben). Ben is still pursuing the possible opportunity with Sandfire.

Item deferred to the next meeting.

Action: Ben to report back at the next meeting

D. Succession Planning for a new Secretary (Carol)

Bob Shepherd confirmed his offer to be the next Secretary and Director of the Society. He and Carol will meet in Adelaide towards the end of October to discuss the handover. A date for the actual handover will be decided.

Action: Carol and Bob to organize the handover

E. "Creating a Modern Outback Forum" (David)

Item deferred to the next meeting

Action: David to write an article for the next RMN.

F. Proposed bid for the 2024 IRC (David)

Item deferred to the next meeting.

G. TRJ Contract extension. To remain on Agenda until later this year.

The process will be to send a short expression of interest to 8-10 Publishers in November. Responders will receive a full information package with responses by end of February next year.

Action: Council to send comments to Don for amalgamation by 21 October

Action: Council to make a decision by end of October by round-robin email

H. International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (David) (Emailed to Council 27 June)

Dana Kelly was present at the meeting to convey the following information. Press Release tabled at the meeting. Small committee has been convened to come up with a definition of Pastoralists – Dana to Chair this. As a country we can support the proposal by approaching the UN General Assembly as a group of countries and get support and letters written from Australian Government Departments. One country will nominate – either Ethiopia and Mongolia. Important to get the support of the IUCN. Need to have the Australian Ambassador to the UN involved. Need to promote at Australian and International events.

Action: Form a subcommittee to come up with Strategy. Dana to convene with David, Don and Carol. Meet this week.

Action: Write a Press Release from the ARS.

Action: Andrew to provide Dana with information about contacts for the Australian Ambassador to the UN.

Action: All Members to target State and Federal Departments and Ministers with this message – Press Releases can form the basis for this.

Action: Dana to draft a letter for use in contacting these people.

I. Proposed Council Sponsorship Subcommittee (Andrew) (Emailed to Council 8 June)

An informal non-executive sub-committee will be formed.

Action: Andrew, Cathy and Dionne to form the Sponsorship Subcommittee, co-opt non-members of Council and liaise with the Conference Sponsorship Committee.

J. Less expensive conference calls (Dionne/Andrew) (Emailed to Council 4 April)

Go-to-Meeting is \$39 per organizer per month i.e. each organizer needs a license. It is not clear if there are other additional costs. Webex are difficult to obtain pricing from. This is cheaper than what we have now.

Action: Andrew will persist with finding out about Webex and Go-to-Meeting.

K. New Fellows (David/Wal) (Emailed to Council 26 May)

Noelene will publish an article calling for submissions for 2 new Fellows of the Society, and the guidelines in the next RMN

L. New reminder to unpaid members (David) (Emailed to Council 29 June)

Once we have discussed membership fees we need to send out a new reminder in December. Subs renewal form in late November. Is March still a relevant date.

Action: Don and David to propose a strategy for Membership renewal for 2016 and talk to Fat Beehive

4. **General business:**

(a) Membership – Report from Annabel Walsh

Details as of 27 September 2016. Annabel provided the following data for members of the ARS (as opposed to institutional subscribers to the journal).

Category	Hardcopy Journal + RMN	E-journal + RMN	RMN only
Standard	95	24	1
Concession	11	2	0
Student	2	1	0
Company	1	2	0
Complimentary	2	17*	0
Total	111	46	1

* Needs to include 8 student winners at the IRC

Don has sent a paper on new membership fees with an increase in costs. Council thought that some of these charges should be increased. Council approved these changes, which are shown below. Remind members that fees are tax deductible. Multi-year (3 year) memberships should be included, which are shown below – **Council approved this action.**

Action: Don to send Bob a list of non-renewing Queensland members.

Action: Don and David to work on renewal notices and cut off dates to be advertised in November well before the end of the calendar year. Payments due by 1 January.

Action: Don and David to seek more clarity from Annabel

Action: David to write with thanks to Graeme for his contribution to the Society

Action: Annabel to bring computer down to Carol in Adelaide and Carol to copy data from it.

Action: Carol to acquire and store a copy of the OLD Database

Fees for 2017

Category	Australia		Approximate percentage increase	Australia	
	2016 subscriptions before 31 March 2016			2017 subscriptions before 31 March 2017	
	Subscription	Total (incl GST)		Subscription	Total (incl GST)
Standard					
Standard with hc-TRJ and e-RMN	\$113.64	\$125.00	16%	\$131.82	\$145.00
Standard with e-TRJ and e-RMN	\$90.91	\$100.00	10%	\$100.00	\$110.00
Standard with e-RMN only	\$68.18	\$75.00	6%	\$72.73	\$80.00
Concessional					
Concessional with hc TRJ and e-RMN	\$100.00	\$110.00	13%	\$113.64	\$125.00
Concessional with-e-TRJ and e-RMN	\$81.82	\$90.00	10%	\$90.91	\$100.00
Concessional with e-RMN only	\$59.09	\$65.00	7%	\$63.64	\$70.00
Student					
Student with hc TRJ and e-RMN	\$90.91	\$100.00	10%	\$100.00	\$110.00
Student with e-TRJ and e-RMN	\$72.73	\$80.00	0%	\$72.73	\$80.00
Student: e-RMN only	\$50.00	\$55.00	0%	\$50.00	\$55.00
Company					
Company with hc TRJ and e-RMN	\$150.00	\$165.00	15%	\$172.73	\$190.00
Company with e-TRJ and e-RMN	\$109.09	\$120.00	12%	\$122.73	\$135.00

Category	International (no GST)				
	2016		Approximate percentage increase		2017
Standard					
Standard with hc TRJ and e-RMN	\$155		16%		\$180.00
Standard with e-TRJ and e-RMN	\$100		10%		\$110.00
Standard with e-RMN only	\$75		6%		\$80.00
Concessional					
Concessional with hc TRJ and e-RMN	\$135		15%		\$155.00
Concessional with-e-TRJ and e-RMN	\$90		11%		\$100.00
Concessional with e-RMN only	\$65		7%		\$70.00
Student					
Student with hc TRJ and e-RMN	\$125		10%		\$140.00
Student with e-TRJ and e-RMN	\$80		0%		\$80.00
Student: e-RMN only	\$55		0%		\$55.00
Company					
Company with hc TRJ and e-RMN	\$205		14%		\$235.00
Company with e-TRJ and e-RMN	\$120		12%		\$135.00

Three year memberships

Membership category	Australia			International		
	Annual rate (incl GST)	3 year (5% discount)		Annual rate (incl GST)	3 year (5% discount)	
		Total	per year		Total	per year
Standard						
hard copy TRJ and e-RMN	\$145.00	\$415.00	\$138.33	\$180.00	\$515.00	\$171.67
e-TRJ and e-RMN	\$110.00	\$315.00	\$105.00	\$110.00	\$315.00	\$105.00
e-RMN only	\$80.00	\$230.00	\$76.67	\$80.00	\$230.00	\$76.67
Concessional						
hard copy TRJ and e-RMN	\$125.00	\$355.00	\$118.33	\$155.00	\$440.00	\$146.67
e-TRJ and e-RMN	\$100.00	\$285.00	\$95.00	\$100.00	\$285.00	\$95.00
e-RMN only	\$70.00	\$200.00	\$66.67	\$70.00	\$200.00	\$66.67
Company						
hard copy TRJ and e-RMN	\$190.00	\$540.00	\$180.00	\$235.00	\$670.00	\$223.33
e-TRJ and e-RMN	\$135.00	\$385.00	\$128.33	\$135.00	\$385.00	\$128.33

(b) Finance – Report from Don Burnside

Financial report to 29 September 2016 circulated by Don.

	Full year budget (GST excl)	Actual Jan 1 to Sept 29 (GST Excl)
INCOME		
TOTAL INCOME	\$58,217	\$47,775
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$97,736	\$67,928
PROFIT/ LOSS	-\$39,519	-\$20,153

Balance of Accounts at 29 September 2016	
Operating Cheque Account 8347	\$289.95
Conference Account 8363	\$5,177.59
Savings Account 8721	\$97,366.58
Membership Account 3504	\$44.62
Petty cash conference	\$500.00
Total cash	\$103,378.74
Outstanding accounts receivable and payable	
Income not yet entered	\$0.00
Current liabilities not yet paid	\$293.04
Tax payable GST (Don to clarify this item)	-\$16,570.36
Net assets	\$119,656.06

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

(c) Publications Committee – Report from the Chair, Don Burnside for Ron Hacker

The Publications Committee met on 14 September 2016. Matters for Council consideration arising from this meeting are as follows.

1. PASSING OF DR STEVE BLAKE

Dr. Steve Blake, a valued member of the Publications Committee, sadly passed away in early August, as a result of brain cancer. His contribution to the Publications Committee and the Society were honored with a wreath presented at his funeral, and a financial contribution to the Cure Brain Cancer Foundation. Don Burnside represented the Society at his funeral which was held in Perth.

2. THE RANGELAND JOURNAL

Publication of TRJ is running smoothly with four issues published to date in 2016 (two of which were Special Issues) and Issue 5 scheduled for publication in October 2016. There are two special issues lined up for 2017 (*Mongolian Plateau* and *Restore, Regenerate, Revegetate*). The first special issue for 2018 will be a selection of papers from the Port Augusta Conference. A second special issue for 2018 needs to be identified.

Recommendation 1: Dr. Matthew Tighe has agreed to become an Associate Editor, and it is recommended that his appointment be confirmed by Council.

Council approved this recommendation

There is still a need for additional Associate Editors and at least one more (replacement) Advisory Editor. Further, there is a need for more engagement with the Advisory Editors.

Tenders for the new publishing contract, to take effect from December 2017, will be called in November. Final input to the document from PC members is being coordinated by Wal Whalley and Ken Hodgkinson. Input from Council to the tender documents (which were largely completed early this year prior to extension of the CSIRO Publishing contract) will be required at the 5 October meeting.

The call for Expressions of Interest (Eol) will go out in November this year so that the tender package goes out to those organisations who respond to the Eol in December, with responses required by end of February 2017. The PC will develop a list of potential publishers to be sent the Eol.

Recommendation 2: Council to approve the Eol and Information Package after review at the 5 October Council meeting.

Council approved this recommendation

3. RANGE MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

No major issues to report. The July 2016 issue was delayed until 9 September to allow time for inclusion of reports from Travel Grants recipients who attended the IRC in Canada. It also contained other reports from members attending the IRC. However, there are still two outstanding Travel Reports to come in which will be published in the next RMN in November 2016.

That issue will also include an article on the procedures for nominating new Fellows of the Society, given that there is an opportunity to award two more Fellowships. Cross-pollination between RMN and the social media is proceeding.

Given that we are now able to carry advertising on the website (and we have a set of agreed rates), there will be no further attempts to obtain advertising for inclusion in the RMN.

4. WEBSITE

There was no report from the Website Manager. As noted in the last PC report, updating of the web site has not been occurring as quickly as required in recent months, in particular with the uploading of:

- archival issues of Range Management Newsletter;
- past proceedings of Biennial Conferences;
- Council and PC minutes;
- TRJ abstracts for the current issue.

Discussions will be held with the Website Manager about how the situation can be resolved. It has been agreed that entry into the Conference-specific material will be via the Society's website.

The protocol that all requests for changes to the website from Council or Council members be channeled through the Chair of the Publications Committee is working well.

5. SOCIAL MEDIA

Social Media is going very well, however, Amber Marshall now has a full time job and is finding it hard to keep up the original standard. She has requested some assistance so that the standard does not go down. Approval was given to Ms Marshall to discuss with the RMN Editor (Noelene Duckett) whether she can assist in daily monitoring of material on Facebook. Amber Marshall has requested that any relevant content be sent to her for use in Social Media. See Item 5 C below.

6. VACANCY ON THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

With the sad passing of Dr Steve Blake, there is a vacancy on the Publication Committee. The Committee will approach Ninti One to look for suggestions for a replacement. However, other options will also be explored.

Action: Don to inform Ron that the recommendations are approved by Council.

5 New business:

- A. Proposed Meeting Dates until May 2017 (Carol)
Council Meeting 255 – 7 December 2016
Council Meeting 256 – 27 January 2016
Council Meeting 257 – 29 March 2016
Annual General Meeting 258 – 15 May 2016

- B. Wal's email to Annabel re upcoming conference

Action: Carol to answer Wal's email

- C. Amber's request for help with Social Media
This should be left to the Publications Committee.

Action: Council to send information about their travels to Amber

6. Correspondence:

INCOMING

01-Aug-16	Email	Amber Marshall	Seeking assistance with a research project
03-Aug-16	Email	Melinda Chandler CSIRO	Various correspondence between Society and CSIRO about presence in Saskatoon
03-Aug-16	Email	Annabel Walsh	Membership report to Council
08-Aug-16	Email	Ron Hacker	Responding to David's queries
08-Aug-16	Email	Jenny Foster CSIRO	Thanking ARS for feedback on Saskatoon Conference
10-Aug-16	Email	David Phelps	Notifying the Society of Steve Blake's passing
10-Aug-16	Email	Don Heylen	Requesting an increase in Honorarium
18-Aug-16	Email	CSIRO Publishing	Rangeland Journal Impact Factor raised to 1.19 from 1.09
22-Aug-16	Email	Margie Lutvey	Requesting information on website advertising
24-Aug-16	Email	Margie Lutvey	Request for an advertisement
24-Aug-16	Email	Lisa Pearson	To Ron Hacker re using the ARS Website for the Port Augusta Conference
25-Aug-16	Email	Shernez Vimadel	Request for an advertisement
12-Sep-16	Email	Jutta Werner	Resignation from the Society
01-Aug-16	Email	Amber Marshall	Seeking assistance with a research project
22-Sep-16	Email	Sindiso Chamane	Thanks to ARS for Student Prize at Saskatoon
22-Sep-16	Email	Hailey Wilmer	Thanks to ARS for Student Prize at Saskatoon
23-Sep-16	Email	Moukrim Said	Thanks to ARS for Student Prize at Saskatoon
27-Sep-16	Email	Wal Whalley	Request for promotional material for his conference
01-Oct-16	Email	Jim O'Rourke	Press Release for International Year of Rangelands
04-Oct-16	Email	Mohamed Habibou	Thanks to ARS for Student Prize at Saskatoon

OUTGOING

03-Aug-16	Email	Melinda Chandler CSIRO	Advising that the ARS/CSIRO stand at the Saskatoon Conference was well-attended
08-Aug-16	Email	Ron Hacker	Queries from David on various matters
13-Aug-16	Email	Jodie Gregg-Smith and Lisa Pearson PCO	Requesting that Ron Hacker be copied into communications that the Port Augusta Conference may have with Camilla or Fat Beehive
24-Aug-16	Email	Lisa Pearson	Various comments on Lisa's request (see incoming)
25-Aug-16	Email	Shernez Vimadel	Response re advertisement
30-Aug-16	Email	Bob Shepherd	Accepting Bob's offer to become the new ARS Secretary
07-Sep-16	Email	Don Heylen	Offering an increase in Honorarium
22-Sep-16	Email	Eight Student Prizes at Saskatoon	Letters confirming prizes

7. The next meeting of Council will be by teleconference at 5 pm Queensland time on Wednesday 7 December 2016

OTHER MEETINGS FOR 2016

December 7
January 27
March 29
May 15 - AGM