



The Australian Rangeland Society

Council Meeting No. 256

MINUTES

5 pm QLD Time – Wednesday 25 January 2017 by Teleconference

1. **Present:** David Phelps (Chair), Carol Ireland, Dionne Walsh, Don Burnside, Gus Whyte, **Guest:** Bob Shepherd

Apologies: Megan Munchenberg, Andrew Ash, Cathy Waters

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** Minutes of Council Meeting 255 on Wednesday 7 December 2016 held by teleconference were approved. **Moved:** Don, **Seconded:** Dionne, **Carried**

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

A. Strategic Plan (David).

- David recirculated the SWOT papers, the older Communications Plan and the Survey from the Alice Springs Conference before the meeting.
- Availability for a strategic planning meeting either before or after the Port Augusta Conference in September = Don, David, Bob, and Dionne. Gus (afterwards), Carol (before)
- Preparation: Recirculate SWO, invite others (e.g. Publications Committee)
- Leave on Agenda until at least September 2017

Action: David and Gus to tidy up the SWOT and consider other aspects of Strategic Planning.

Action: Other members of Council to contribute ideas. Include younger members of the ARS.

Action: Carol to send the old Media Protocol to David

B. Port Augusta 2017 Conference (Carol/ Don)

- Program and most of keynote speakers are in place
- Budget and tours will be forthcoming at the next full conference meeting
- Excel spreadsheet on sponsorship doing the rounds

Action: Don and Carol to keep Council informed

Action: Dionne will have the spreadsheet back to Kate by Monday 30 January

C. Sandfire Resources Sponsorship (Ben).

Item closed

D. Succession Planning for a new Secretary (Carol)

- Bob Shepherd and Carol will meet in Brisbane on the 15th February. A date for the actual handover will be decided.

Action: Carol and Bob to organize the handover

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

- David has emailed Barry Traill of PEW to write an article for RMN and has had no response.

Action: David to phone Barry Traill.

F. Proposed bid for the 2024 IRC (David)

- Need to move forward with this proposal, and seek a person who could lead the bid

Action: Don to write an article for the next RMN re our bid for the 2024 Conference

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

- See Publication Committee Report 4 C.

H. International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (David)

- See Item 5B

I. Council Sponsorship Subcommittee (Andrew and Dionne)

- Grants may be available to the Society
- Leave this on the Agenda for future Conferences and other opportunities for funding

J. Less expensive conference calls (Dionne/Andrew)

- Webex can handle 25 attendees for \$68/month and unlimited VoIP calls. They will provide a free trial for 14 days.

Action: Will evaluate Webex as a free trial early in 2017. Andrew to organize.

K. New Fellows

- Leave on agenda. Allan Wilson has offered to give up his Fellow status to make room for someone else. This is a very generous offer and one that should be accepted.

Action: Don and Ron write to Alan to accept this offer

L. New reminder to unpaid members (David)

Action: Don to send reminders every month

M. Travel Grant Criteria

Council discussed the need to tighten criteria for Travel Grants so that they are targeted at

- members who have not had the opportunity to travel widely within or outside Australia; and
- members in the earlier stages of their career.

This will be investigated by Council at the next meeting.

4. **General business:**

(a) Membership

- No report available from Annabel. Don has been keeping track of this. 62 have paid for one year 14 have paid for 3 years (about half of 2016 members have renewed for 2017). Eight members from 2015 have decided to renew!

(b) Finance – Report from Don Burnside

Financial report to 31 December 2016 circulated by Don.

INCOME	Full year budget (GST excl)	Actual Jan 1 to Dec 31 (GST Excl)
TOTAL INCOME	\$58,217	\$54,216
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$97,736	\$93,714
PROFIT/ LOSS	-\$39,519	-\$39,498

Balance of Accounts at 31 December 2016	
Operating Cheque Account 8347	\$362
Conference Account 8363	\$275
Savings Account 8721	\$83,179
Membership Account 3504	\$200
Petty cash conference	\$500
Total cash	\$84,709
Outstanding accounts receivable and payable	
Income not yet entered	\$4,818
Current liabilities not yet paid	0
Tax payable GST (Don to clarify this item)	-\$17,575
Net assets	\$107,102

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

(c) Publications Committee – Report from Ron Hacker

The Publications Committee met on 11 January 2017. Matters for Council consideration arising from this meeting, and subsequent developments, are as follows:

1. THE RANGELAND JOURNAL

There is a slight delay with the printing (in India) of issue 6 for 2016. It should be distributed shortly. In 2016 the journal published the target six issues, including two Special Issues, for a total of 618 pages. This may incur some additional page charges for the Society as our contract is based on 600 pages per annum. Issue 1 of 2017 will comprise 10 papers and is almost ready for printing. One paper has been accepted for issue 2 and there are 24 others currently in various stages of review and revision.

Dr Steve McLeod has been appointed as an Associate Editor, bringing the total number of AEs to 16. Advisory Editors, contacted by the Editor-in-Chief in November, have made a number of suggestions for additional appointments.

Special Issue contracts are in place for 2017 and the Biennial Conference is expected to provide the first special issue of 2018. A special issue on northern development is being considered as the second special issue for 2018. The proposal has been developed by Dr Ash and funding will be sought initially from the Office of Northern Australia. I am unaware of any planning by the Organising Committee of the 2017 Biennial Conference to produce the first special issue of 2018 referred to above, in particular to appoint a Guest Editor(s). Arrangements for this need to be put in place as soon as possible.

Recommendation: That Council, through its representative on the Organising Committee of the 2017 Biennial Conference, request that the committee commence planning for the production of the Special Issue of TRJ to be published in 2018 from the conference proceedings.

The recommendation was approved by Council - **Moved:** Dionne, **Seconded:** Gus, **Carried.**

A supplementary information package has been developed in response to questions submitted by intending tenderers for the new publishing contract for TRJ. These questions were received after distribution of the original Information Package. The supplementary information was distributed to the four competitors on 4 January. Since then a few questions of clarification have been raised by two of the tenderers and these have been answered directly. I do not intend to compile these responses into an additional supplementary file for general distribution. One tenderer (SAGE Publishing) has indicated they would like to talk with the Editor-in-Chief. This has not occurred at the time of writing but I expect it will happen shortly. The sub-committee for consideration of tenders will comprise David Phelps, Don Burnside, Paul Novelly, Wal Whalley, and me. Ken Hodgkinson has elected not to extend his term on the Publications Committee past 31 December 2016 but will be co-opted to this committee if he is agreeable.

2. RANGE MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

The usual three issues were published in 2016. The next is due in March 2017. The matter raised in the last report to Council regarding the apparent failure of some institutional subscribers to receive RMN email alerts has not yet been resolved. Noelene Duckett will contact the Subscriptions Secretary to try to resolve it.

3. WEB SITE

Unfortunately, the web site editor was required to support some funeral arrangements at short notice and was an apology for the meeting. She has indicated to me that she wishes to continue as Web Site Editor and hopes to be able to improve the efficiency of performance in the coming year. She has put arrangements in place to help ensure she does not miss important emails in the future. As part of a review of her situation it has been agreed with Camilla that \$1000 of her 2016 Honorarium will be paid to Noelene Duckett to allow Noelene to load the archival issues of RMN onto the web site. I will review the effectiveness of the new arrangements at the end of June.

The major item now outstanding in relation to the web site is the uploading of the archival issues of the biennial conference proceedings which were scanned at the University of Arizona (Global Rangelands group) and received about 15 months ago. I have agreed with Camilla that we need to scope the size of this job in order to determine if it is reasonable for her to undertake it as part of her normal responsibilities or requires some assistance. If the latter I would propose that part of her 2017 Honorarium might be used. She will compile for me details of the files involved and send me some examples. (As the process of scanning archival conference proceedings was mediated via Ken Hodgkinson I have not seen the material available). At least some of the papers from these old proceedings are located on the Global Rangelands web site and it may be desirable in the short term to place a link to this site, and a description of what it contains, on our site.

Keeping the web site up to date in terms of 'Latest News' will be an ongoing challenge for the Editor. I have indicated to her that she has considerable freedom in terms of the material she posts to this section of the site and that she is expected to exercise this responsibility. I have also indicated that the material provided for the Social Media Editor by Wright Social (see below) could be a useful source of stories.

4. SOCIAL MEDIA

At its last meeting, Council agreed to fund the engagement of Wright Social to provide a relevant Facebook post weekly for the next 12 months. This post will also be the basis for at least one Twitter post per week. This expenditure will be partly funded by the use of \$500 from the 2016 Honorarium for the Social Media Editor. The arrangement is apparently working satisfactorily but no indication of its effectiveness will be available until the SME submits her next quarterly report due in February.

5. VACANCIES ON THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

An approach to Kate Forest (Rangelands NRM Alliance) regarding a possible appointment to the Publications Committee, foreshadowed in my last report, was unsuccessful. As noted above, Ken Hodgkinson has elected not to extend his appointment so there are now two vacancies (*vice* Steve Blake and Ken Hodgkinson). Ken's decision was prompted primarily by his desire to see some younger appointments to the committee. He has made a number of suggestions. The PC was

generally supportive of these suggestions and I will follow up with the individuals concerned in the near future.

Council accepted the Publications Committee Report. **Moved:** Carol, **Seconded:** Gus, **Carried.**

5 New business:

- A. Amber Marshal Letter of support for study grant application
Action: Dionne to write a letter of support

- B. Dana Kelly request for Australia to host the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralism. There will be quite a lot of work for this and the existing Council may not be able to take this on. However, it aligns quite well for our bid for IRC 2024.
Action: David to ask John Taylor to make enquiries about this at the SRM Meeting and also to approach him to see if he is interested in working on this bid.

- C. Communications strategy
See item 3A

6. Correspondence:

INCOMING

02-Dec-16	Email	Dana Kelly	ARS logo on Mexico Conference Poster
06-Dec-16	Email	Kate Forrest/Andrew Ash	Correspondence re Council Sponsorship Sub-committee
12-Dec-16	Email	Camilla Osborn	Change of email address for President and Secretary
14-Dec-16	Letter	SA Minister Hunter	Declaring his intention to write to Federal Minister Frydenberg endorsing the IY of Rangelands & Pastoralists
16-Jan-17	Email	Wal Whalley	Acceptance of Continuation as member of the Publications Committee
16-Jan-17	Email	John Taylor	Attendance at SRM Annual Meeting
18-Jan-16	Letter	Margaret Friedel	Thanks for the award of Fellow of the Society

OUTGOING

08-Dec-16	Email	Kate Forrest/Andrew Ash	Correspondence re Council Sponsorship Sub-committee
08-Dec-16	Email	Mike Levy, Auditor	Accounting treatment of 3-year memberships
12-Dec-16	Email	Camilla Osborn	Change of email address for President and Secretary
10-Jan-17	Email	Camilla Osborn	How to Advertise on the website
10-Jan-17	Email	Annabel Walsh	List of complimentary memberships from Don Burnside
10-Jan-17	Email	Paul at Fat Beehive	Reminder notice to membership re subs
12-Jan-17	Email	Mike Levy, Auditor	Audit of 2016 accounts
14-Jan-17	Email	Margaret Friedel	Award of Fellow status in the Society
15-Jan-17	Email	Steven McLeod	Confirmation of appointment as Associate Editor
15-Jan-17	Email	Matthew Tighe	Confirmation of appointment as Associate Editor
15-Jan-17	Email	David Eldridge	Continuation as member of the Publications Committee
15-Jan-17	Email	Wal Whalley	Continuation as member of the Publications Committee
16-Jan-17	Letter	Minister Byrne (QLD)	Requesting support for IYRP
16-Jan-17	Letter	Minister Miles (QLD)	Requesting support for IYRP
16-Jan-17	Letter	Neil McLeod	Unsuccessful application for Travel Grant
16-Jan-17	Letter	Peter O'Reagain	Award of 2017 Travel Grant
16-Jan-17	Letter	Mohammed Assouma	Unsuccessful application for Travel Grant

7. The next meeting of Council will be by teleconference at 5 pm Queensland time on Wednesday 29 March 2017

MEETINGS FOR 2017

- 5,00 pm (Qld time) March 29
- 5.00 pm (Qld time) May 15 - AGM