



The Australian Rangeland Society

MINUTES PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

4.00 pm Australian Eastern Standard Time (5.00 pm Australian Eastern Daylight Time) via
Teleconference

Wednesday 11 February 2015.

1. **Present:** Ron Hacker (Chair), Wal Whalley, Ken Hodgkinson, Russell Grant, Noelene Duckett
Andrew Ash, Don Burnside, Steve Blake, John Milne, Jocelyn Davies

2. **Apologies:** David Eldridge

Ron Hacker welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. **Other items of General Business**

- (a) Email scam
- (b) Timing of meetings

4. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

In addition to the suggested changes made by Andrew Ash via email, Ron Hacker indicated two additional changes: addition of 'of' in 6.3 and the meeting concluded at 6.15pm and not 5.15pm.

Motion: That the minutes of last Publications Committee meeting which took place by teleconference on 10 December 2014 be approved as amended.

Moved: Ken Hodgkinson

Seconded: Wal Whalley

Carried.

5. **Matters arising from previous minutes** (numbered as they appear in the Minutes):

Item 5.2 *Upgrading of ARS web site*
See Item 6 below.

Item 5.6 *Preparation of Leo Dobes Rangeland Journal Lecture for YouTube*
Ken Hodgkinson reported that ANU were not able to undertake editing of the lecture but he looked at the video and thought it was suitable as is to be uploaded.
Action: Ken Hodgkinson to upload the video on to YouTube using the ARS account and when that is completed Russell Grant to provide a link to it on the website.

Item 5.9 *Promotional Flyer for The Rangeland Journal*
Ron Hacker has the two new versions of the flyer in pdf format and will circulate them.

Item 6 *Response from Council to PC report of 24 September 2014*

- o Publications Committee promotion at Alice Springs conference – satchel insert

A draft document had been circulated by Ron Hacker.

Action: PC members to send suggested wording changes in track change mode to Ron Hacker

Action: Ron Hacker to seek permission from Council to print the flyer and to incur associated costs

- Open access response strategy – advice from CSIRO Publishing
Work in progress
- Special issue on mining rehabilitation
Based on responses and interactions since the last meeting Ron Hacker indicated that a special issue would be feasible in terms of content but thought that the 2017 timeline might seem too far off to attract interest and that it may be tricky asking a group to organize a special issue and at the same time request \$10,000 to cover publication costs.
Jocelyn Davies thought there was scope to broaden out the special issue from rehabilitation to include social responsibility aspects.
Don Burnside thought the special issue would be appropriate, that the \$10,000 expense wouldn't be a concern for the mining industry, and that the time frame would be reasonable.
Action: Ron Hacker to contact the Minerals Council of Australia to discuss the opportunity to put together a special issue on mining in the areas of environment and social responsibility with the need to include more strategic and forward thinking aspects (UQ, UWA, CSIRO etc) in addition to current industry practices. It would also be good to include international contributions. Don Burnside to provide details of Minerals Council contacts to Ron Hacker.
- Response from members to proposed move to electronic publication of RMN only
Work in progress with the issue being raised with members via the conference satchel insert and the RMN.
- Role Statements for Council
Done and awaiting response from Council

Item 13 *Date and venue for PC meeting at Alice Springs*
11.00am to 12.30pm on April 16 in the Boardroom of the conference venue

6. Upgrading of ARS web site

6.1. Working group report on quotes received and follow up investigations

Ron Hacker provided a summary of the process to date. Based on the quotes, the Working Group discussion, follow-up responses from the potential suppliers, and the views of Scott Taylor (CSIRO IT expert), Ron indicated that Fat Beehive provided the best value and best met the requirements of the Society. These views were supported by the PC, who commended Ron and the Working Group on the thorough job they had done in progressing this important initiative.

6.2. It was moved:

That the Publications Committee recommend to Council the acceptance of the quote from Fat Beehive Limited for upgrading of the ARS web site and prepare a submission to the Council meeting of 25 February (including cost of ongoing maintenance and third party software licenses), with the aim of activating the new site on 1 May 2015.

Moved: Ron Hacker

Seconded: Don Burnside

Carried

7. Report from TRJ Editor- in-Chief, John Milne

John Milne reported the statistics for the journal for 2014:

- 6 issues published
- 54 papers published from 125 papers submitted
- 610 pages
- Average time between submission and publication (5 research issues): 225 days (a record low)
- Country of origin: 50% of the papers were from Australia
- The Impact Factor has declined from 1.4 to 1.06 over the last two years. John estimated it would be 1.35 (or possibly a bit higher) next year based on current citations.

In 2015, the first issue has already been published (a Special Issue on the Tibetan Plateau), to be followed by four normal issues, with the 6th issue of the year being a Special Issue featuring papers from the Alice Springs conference. John is confident that there are enough papers coming through the system to fill up the four normal issues.

Jocelyn Davies reported progress on the conference Special Issue. Based on abstracts received for the conference 12 people had been invited to prepare journal papers and 7 of these had accepted. The full papers (1500 words) are now coming in and based on these a second round of invitations will be issued. The introductory Editorial to the Special Issue will focus on innovation in rangelands and Jocelyn and the editorial team will draw on other papers from the conference to help shape the editorial. Neither of the invited speakers to the conference (Fred Chaney and Stuart Bunn) was prepared to put together a journal paper. Don Burnside indicated that it may be possible to get a paper from Fred Chaney if someone was prepared to ghost write an initial version.

In regard to other Special Issues, Ron Hacker indicated that the contract for the Special Issue on Climate Clever Beef (scheduled for late 2016) is still with the legal people in Qld Dept. of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and has yet to be signed.

8. Report from Web Site Editor, Russell Grant

Russell reported that with the new website imminent there is minimal new material being loaded or updated on the current website. There is a link to the conference website. Some features of the current website are not functioning properly but there is little point in fixing them with the new website due by May 1, 2015.

Ron Hacker indicated that an early step in development of the new web site would be a design workshop with the developers and that it would be important for some PC members to participate. Members who are keen to get involved with the new website development and provide input as it progresses include: Russell Grant, Noelene Duckett and Ken Hodgkinson. Ron Hacker suggested that Graeme Tupper be included in this group and Don Burnside suggested it would be good to get input from Heidi Wright though she won't be contracted until May 1, 2015. There will be an opportunity for all PC members to contribute as the site is developed.

9. Report from RMN Editor, Noelene Duckett

Noelene reported that there is a steady stream of articles being submitted. The March issue will have a conference update and mention the 40th anniversary of the ARS. Associated with the anniversary, people will be asked to provide reminiscences and Martin Andrew has already volunteered to provide an article on the first meeting of the Society.

The new design of the RMN will wait for the website to be developed to make the most of a consistent look and feel.

10. General Business

10.1 Global Rangeland Repository

Ken Hodgkinson reported that this has been completed and all biennial conference proceedings as well as proceedings of the US-Australia Rangelands Panel Workshops had now been scanned by the Global Rangelands Repository group at the University of Arizona. The scanned material has been returned to Ken but will not be uploaded onto the web site until the new site is operational. Two members of the group will attend the Alice Springs conference and present a poster making people aware of the Global Rangelands Repository.

Action: Ron Hacker to request in his upcoming report to Council that the Organizing Committee of the Alice Springs conference be advised that arrangements should be made for the proceedings to be placed in the Global Rangelands Repository.

11. Any other business

11.1 Email scam

As a result of someone hacking into Graeme Tupper's computer and sending out scam email to ARS members the Committee considered it important that the possibility of such attack be minimised in the new website.

Action: Ron Hacker to ensure that security of membership data is discussed at the web site design workshop.

11.2 Timing of meetings

During summer the 5.00 pm meeting time is 6.00 am in Scotland and not entirely convenient for Noelene. Other possible timings were discussed but it was resolved to stick with the existing time of 5.00 pm.

12. Date of future meetings

Joint meeting with Council on Tuesday April 14 at 3.00pm at the Alice Springs conference;
PC meeting with Associate Editors on Thursday April 16 at 11.00am at the conference.

The meeting closed at 6.15 pm AEDT.