



The Australian Rangeland Society

MINUTES PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

5pm Australian Eastern Standard Time
By Teleconference

Wednesday 15 July 2015.

1. Ron Hacker welcomed everyone to the meeting
2. **Present:** Ron Hacker (Chair), Wal Whalley, Ken Hodgkinson, Andrew Ash, Don Burnside, John Milne, Noelene Duckett, Jocelyn Davies, Carol Ireland (Minute Secretary)

Apologies: Steve Blake, Russell Grant

3. **Other items of General Business**

Standardized format for conference proceedings – see Item 9.3 below.

4. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Motion: That the minutes of the Publications Committee meeting held at the Alice Springs Convention Centre on 16 April 2015 be accepted as circulated.

Moved: Wal Whalley

Seconded: Don Burnside

Carried.

5. **Matters arising from previous minutes**

- 5.1. *Rangeland Journal Lecture*

Andrew Ash will finalize arrangements with Phil Thornton when he (Phil) returns to Australia. A Society banner should be available from David Phelps.

Action: Andrew Ash to finalize arrangements for the lecture.

- 5.2. *Other matters arising*

None

6. **Progress report on *The Rangeland Journal***

- 6.1. *Report from Editor-in-Chief, John Milne*

The fourth issue of TRJ for 2015 is about to come out, ahead of schedule. Papers for the Special Issue from the Alice Springs conference are coming in, as well as papers for the Climate Clever Beef special issue. The 2014 Impact Factor is not yet available.

- 6.2. *Special Issue on Mining in Rangelands*

Ron Hacker has tried again to contact Ms Stutsel (the original contact at Minerals Council of Australia) and Ms Livermore who is currently acting in the role. There has been no response which may be the Council's policy towards such requests. Don Burnside undertook to contact Ms Stutsel informally to seek clarification of the Council's attitude.

Action: Ron Hacker to forward current contact details for Ms Stutsel to Don Burnside who will follow up with her.

6.3. Open Access Strategy – recommendations to Council

The position adopted by the PC at the Alice Springs meeting has not yet been forwarded to Council as the next regular Council meeting is not until 29 July (the Annual General Meeting in May does not consider reports from the PC). The strategy recommended by the PC is that in setting subscriptions for individuals Council follow the trend set by CSIRO Publishing in recommending institutional subscriptions as this will reflect the influence of the level of Open Access publication.

Action: Ron Hacker to convey this recommendation to Council.

6.4. Appointment of New Associate Editors (Cingolani, Wang, Hou, Watson)

All appointments have been offered and all have accepted.

6.5. Draft contract for Associate Editors (as provided by CSIRO Publishing)

Chris Anderson mentioned this at the Alice Springs conference and forwarded a copy of the contract used by CSIRO Publishing to Ron Hacker and John Milne. The draft contract is similar to that of our current system based on a letter of offer and a role statement for Associate Editors.

PC resolved to continue with our current system.

6.6. Sampler issue of TRJ

The PC agreed in Alice Springs to request CSIRO Publishing to produce such an issue, containing high profile papers from past issues of TRJ, for promotional purposes. John Milne has proposed a title and selected 10 highly cited papers, including several review papers, which could be compiled into a sampler.

Action: John Milne to circulate the sampler proposal for comment.

6.7. Production management changes to accepted manuscripts

A reader of TRJ has contacted Ron Hacker pointing out some editorial issues related to a table and a figure in a recent paper (header line missing in the table, shading used in the figure not consistent with the caption). John Milne had taken this issue up with CSIRO Publishing who reported that the problem was with changes made by the typesetter which were not picked up by either the Production Editor or the corresponding author in checking the page proofs. They indicated that an Erratum could be produced if required. Ron Hacker noted that the paper in question actually contained similar errors in several more figures, not mentioned by the reader.

The basic issue is that changes can be made to an accepted manuscript in the production process. These are not always appropriate, or correctly reflected in the text, and are not always picked up in the proofing stage. CSIRO Publishing suggested that the Editor-in-Chief (EiC) and the author can be alerted to any 'major changes' made to an accepted manuscript during production. However, the 'major changes' envisaged do not adequately cover the problem originally identified. In particular, the suggested 'major changes' related only to figures whereas John Milne is concerned also about tables. Some editorial changes (e.g. related to the journal's style standards) can and should be made by the Production Editor but other changes need to be drawn to the attention of the EiC and the author. There is a balance to be struck as the EiC cannot be bogged down in checking proofs.

Members of the PC acknowledged that the general issue is a problem and some have had personal experience of such changes. While final responsibility for checking proofs rests

with authors this is probably not always done as thoroughly as required. The scale of the problem is not known but Ron Hacker indicated that he had identified several likely issues in perusing recently published papers.

Correspondence with CSIRO Publishing on this issue has to date mainly involved the Production Editor. The PC considered that the issue is sufficiently important to warrant more involvement and direction from Chris Anderson (Publisher, Life Sciences)

Actions:

1. Ron Hacker and John Milne to develop a response to Chris Anderson requesting (a) that an Erratum be produced concerning all errors in the paper in question (at no cost to ARS) and (b) that major changes to figures and tables in future be identified to the EiC and the corresponding author when page proofs are distributed.

2, Ron Hacker to undertake a survey of recently published papers to identify possible instances of undesirable post-acceptance changes. These will be checked against the accepted version by John Milne to determine the likely scale of the problem and help develop a more refined strategy to deal with the issue, if necessary.

6.8. Posting of manuscripts on social media research sites

Authors have freedom to post accepted manuscripts on social media sites or institutional repositories (provided they include a link to the definitive version on the journal's website) but pdf versions of the final published paper cannot be uploaded. This is likely to become more of an issue with authors wishing to use such sites as Research Gate and Academia. While the practice cannot be policed by the Society members of the PC need to be aware of the situation so advice can be given to authors if required.

7. ARS Website

7.1 Report from Website Editor

No report

7.2 Progress with upgrade

Target launch is 27 July and Fat Beehive are reasonably on track. This is well behind the original May target but delays in signing off on the design meant that the project lost its place in the queue. Main issue now is to decide which payment gateway will be incorporated into the site for membership subscriptions, conference registrations etc. Ron Hacker has looked at four options – 3 suggested by Fat Beehive and 1 by Ray Bird of Meeting Masters. These are SecurePay (a system supported by Australia Post), eWay, Fat Zebra and eMatters (the system used by Meeting Masters, the Society's professional conference organizer). These systems offer either one or both of two approaches – a 'secure payment' system which usually charges a percentage of the value of each transaction, or a 'payment gateway' system which works in conjunction with an Internet Merchant Account and which involves an annual fee plus a cost per transaction which is related to the volume of business. Paul Beaton of Fat Beehive has indicated that all such systems are similar and any could be implemented within the site; the pricing plan offered is probably the most important issue in making the decision. Ron Hacker had attempted a comparison of the alternatives on price but no strict comparison is possible. It might be advantageous to use the same system as Meeting Masters which they have found to be satisfactory over a number of years and which appears to be moderately priced.

The PC resolved to proceed with the eMatters system subject to further discussion between Ron Hacker, Peter Marin, Graeme Tupper and any other relevant parties.

Action: Ron Hacker to seek further advice on adoption of the eMatters gateway.

7.3 Appointment of Social Media Editor

Expressions of Interest had been circulated. In summary, the discussion concluded:

- Dr M Fatur – not competitive;
- Ms Nicolai Cooper – not competitive;
- Ms Pam Kretzschmar – would be competent but may be too involved with other things;
- Mr Rod Campbell – has a strong case but is he good at building communities and engaging people rather than simply giving out information? Current position may also be demanding;
- Ms Amber Marshall – maybe too strongly academic but has active involvement with social media and appreciates the need to link our use of social media with defined objectives; has recently taken up residence in the rangelands and is looking for a means of using her training and experience to make a constructive contribution to rangeland communities.
- Ms Alexandra Mercer – expressed interest to Ron Hacker at the Alice Springs conference but no further information available.

Both Amber Marshall and Rob Campbell were considered suitable, and in that order of preference.

Actions:

1. Ron Hacker to talk to Amber Marshall and Rod Campbell to assess their current interest (including the possibility of assisting with web site management if not appointed Social Media Editor).
2. Ron Hacker to draft a recommendation to Council for out-of-session consideration by the PC.

8. Range Management Newsletter

8.1 Report from RMN Editor

Working on the July issue and will try to launch on the new website. Hard copy will be published in early August.

8.2 Phase out of hard copy production

No adverse feedback to this proposal has been received from the membership. The PC agreed to cease hard copy production at the end of 2015.

Action: Ron Hacker to inform Council of this decision.

9. General Business

9.1 Publications Committee appointments expiring 31 December 2015 (Davies, Duckett, Grant)
Jocelyn Davies and Noelene Duckett have agreed to continue on the PC.

Action: Ron Hacker will follow up with Russell Grant and make a recommendation to Council for extensions.

(NOTE: Steve Blake's appointment also terminates 31 December and was inadvertently omitted from the agenda; Ron Hacker will follow up).

9.2 Steve Blake

Wal Whalley moved that the PC convey its best wishes to Steve Blake for a successful recovery. All agreed.

Action: Ron Hacker to convey these sentiments to Steve Blake

9.3 Standardization of format for Biennial Conference Proceedings.

The PC agreed that the Proceedings of Biennial Conferences should be prepared in a standard format to give a more professional and consistent appearance, especially for material placed on the web site. It was agreed that the format adopted for the Alice Springs conference should

be used rather than developing a new set of guidelines. The standardized format will need to contain guidelines to authors on uploading of papers to institutional repositories (noting that authors do not sign copyright declarations or a License to Publish) and the form of citation to be used.

Action: Ron Hacker to recommend to Council that they approach the Organizing Committee of the SA conference to implement this recommendation.

10. Date of future meetings

9 September 2015 (Noted that Carolyn Ireland will not be available as Minutes Secretary and Don Burnside will be an apology)

18 November 2015

The meeting closed at 6.15 pm