



The Australian Rangeland Society

MINUTES PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 9 September 2015

5pm Australian Eastern Standard Time
By Teleconference

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

Apologies: David Eldridge, Don Burnside, Russell Grant
3. **Other items of General Business**
None
4. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
Motion: That the minutes of the Publications Committee meeting held by teleconference on 15 July 2015 be accepted as circulated.
Moved: Ken Hodgkinson
Seconded: Wal Whalley
Carried.
5. **Matters arising from previous minutes**
 - 5.1. *Standardized format for conference proceedings*
Council agreed to the recommendation of the Publications Committee (PC)
 - 5.2. *Other matters arising*
None
6. **Progress report on *The Rangeland Journal***
 - 6.1. *Report from Editor-in-Chief, John Milne*
Impact factor for 2014 was lower than expected at 1.096. Issue 5 for 2015 will go to the publisher soon. Issue 6 will be the Special Issue from the 2015 conference. Most papers for this issue have been processed. Papers for the Special Issues scheduled for 2016 are on track.
 - 6.2. *Special Issue on Mining in Rangelands*
Deferred until the next meeting.
 - 6.3. *Open Access Strategy – recommendation to Council*
Council agreed to the recommendation of the Publications Committee (PC)
 - 6.4. *Sampler issue of The Rangeland Journal*

The PC resolved to submit the proposal as drafted by John Milne (with one replacement title to provide more international appeal) to CSIRO Publishing for production.

Action: John Milne to submit the sampler proposal to Chris Anderson.

6.5. *Production management changes to accepted manuscripts*

6.5.1. Letter to CSIRO Publishing – 19 July 2015

The response recently received from Chris Anderson to the letter from Ron Hacker of 19 July 2015 (highlighting problems with production of the paper Tjelele *et al.* Vol. 37:147-156, and other post-acceptance production issues) had been circulated. CSIRO Publishing has uploaded a PDF of the corrected version to their web site and re-exported the PDF to their aggregators. All browsers of the paper now have access to the corrected version of the published manuscript. In future changes made post-acceptance will be shown as tracked changes in a Word document provided to the Editor-in-Chief and the corresponding author. The PC considered that this was a good response.

Action: Ron Hacker to send a letter of thanks to Chris Anderson.

6.5.2. Survey of recent papers

Work in progress by Ron Hacker. Deferred to next meeting.

6.6. *Special Issues – none contracted after 2016*

No Special Issues have been contracted beyond 2016 and the time line is now becoming a concern. The next Biennial Conference is not scheduled until September 2017 and will not provide material for a Special Issue until 2018. Ken Hodgkinson suggested that the International Rangeland Congress (IRC) in 2016 may be able to provide some papers that could form a Special Issue. John Milne advised that there have been some offers but the \$10,000 price tag appears to be too high for some. Andrew Ash suggested a Special Issue about the current 'state of knowledge' in relation to policy, ecology, and management of Australian rangelands might be appropriate given the current focus on northern Australia. The PC welcomed this suggestion and considered that a range of organizations including the Commonwealth Government might provide financial support for such a publication.

Action: Ron Hacker to approach the Organizing Committee of the IRC to determine the possibility of a Special Issue from contributed papers.

Action: Andrew Ash to develop further the concept of a 'state of knowledge' Special Issue and circulate a brief proposal to the PC.

7. **ARS Website**

7.1. *Report from Website Editor*

No report.

7.2. *Progress with upgrade*

Members of the PC thought the new web site, launched this week, had a good look. Ron Hacker indicated that some functionality is still lacking and will need to be incorporated by Fat Beehive, particularly the ability for site administrators to distribute email alerts. Council had approved use of the eMatters payment gateway but frustrating delays had been experienced with the Commonwealth Bank in setting up the Internet Merchant Facility and linking it to the payment gateway so that payments can be accepted on-line. The bank finally insisted that the link could not be made until the site was live and the decision was therefore taken to launch the site without this functionality. Peter Marin is expected to advise soon that the link has been established.

7.3. *Appointment of Social Media Editor*

Ron Hacker reported on his negotiations with Amber Marshall and Rod Campbell. Council approved the recommendation from PC to appoint Ms. Marshall with effect from 23 September at latest to ensure maximum overlap with Heidi Wright. Amber has been provided with a draft Role Statement. She has sought clarification regarding the amount of time the appointment is likely to require and pointed out the potential limitations of her situation which has only satellite Internet access. Consultation with Heidi Wright indicated that the time commitment should be about 3-4 hours per week. The satellite connection should not be a limitation. Heidi Wright started active management of the social media accounts on Monday this week. Her milestone report is due on 17 September. The President has questioned whether the Social Media Editor should be responsible to the Web Site Editor as in the draft Role Statement, or directly to the PC. After discussion the PC agreed that the direct line of reporting was preferable.

Motion: That the Social Media Editor have a direct line of responsibility to the PC.

Moved: Wal Whalley

Seconded: Andrew Ash

Carried.

Action: Ron Hacker to advise Council of the above motion.

7.4. *Social media policy documents*

The documents Social Media Engagement Strategy 2015-17, Australian Rangeland Society Social Media Policy and Guidelines 2015 and Conditions of Use, prepared by Heidi Wright, had recently been received and circulated. These contain considerable detail and will require some time for consideration before a recommendation could be made to Council. Andrew Ash thought that the framework of the engagement strategy was good but some of the detail (e.g. the description of the primary audience and what the Society can provide for them) will need to be worked through. The documents also assume a larger range of activities than the Society actually performs. PC determined that the best way to proceed would be for members to forward any questions they have to Ron Hacker who would compile a response to Heidi Wright and then commence editing the documents in light of her answers. The edited documents would then be circulated to PC for further consideration.

Action: PC members to read the documents and forward any questions to Ron Hacker. Ron Hacker to compile a joint response to Heidi Wright and edit the documents in line with her reply for further consideration by the PC.

7.5. *Appointment of new Website Editor*

Rod Campbell has declined and Ms. Kretzschmar (who provided an Expression of Interest for the Social Media Editor role) has not responded to an email from Ron Hacker. However, Camilla Osborne, who administered the social media for the Alice Springs conference has expressed interest in response to an enquiry from Ron Hacker.

Action: Ron Hacker to seek a resume from Camilla Osborne that could be provided to the Council with a recommendation.

8. **Range Management Newsletter**

8.1. *Report from RMN Editor*

Noelene has had training from Fat Beehive to get the RMN up on the website. The email alert for this issue will be distributed by Fat Beehive. Hardcopy versions are ready to be posted and Graeme Tupper will mail these shortly.

8.2. *Cessation of hard copy production at the end of 2015*

Council agreed to the recommendation of the Publications Committee (PC)

9. General Business

9.1. *Publications Committee appointments expiring 31 December 2015*

9.1.1. Jocelyn Davies and Noelene Duckett have agreed to continue on the PC.

9.1.2. Steve Blake has agreed to continue on the PC

Action: Ron Hacker will recommend extension of Steve Blake's appointment to Council.

9.1.3. Extension of Associate Editors – Dube, MacLeod, Cooke, Pressland
John Milne has written to all except Pressland seeking their response to an extension of their appointments. Pressland is current away and will be contacted later.

Motion: That the PC recommend to Council extension of the appointments of Associate Editors Dube, MacLeod, Cooke, and Pressland if they agree to continue.

Moved: Wal Whalley

Seconded: Ken Hodgkinson

Carried

9.2. *Legal Deposit requirements – National Library of Australia*

We should have been aware of this requirement and need to make sure that our obligations are met in future. CSIRO Publishing has advised that they provide copies of *The Rangeland Journal* to meet the requirements of the State and National repositories. Ken Hodgkinson undertook to ensure that the Society's obligations are met in relation to past Proceedings of the Biennial Conference.

Action: Ken Hodgkinson to ensure that copies of all Biennial Conference proceedings have been lodged with the National Library of Australia.

10. Date of future meetings

18 November 2015

The meeting closed at 6.15 pm