



The Australian Rangeland Society

MINUTES PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 16 March 2016

5pm Australian Eastern Daylight Time
By Teleconference

Ron Hacker opened the meeting and welcomed members at 5.15 pm.

- 1. Present:** Ron Hacker (Chair), Wal Whalley, Paul Novelly, Ken Hodgkinson, Jocelyn Davies, David Eldridge, Don Burnside, Noelene Duckett, Carol Ireland (Minutes Secretary)
- 2. Apologies:** Andrew Ash, Steve Blake, Amber Marshall, Camilla Osborn
- 3. Other items of General Business**
No additional items
- 4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Motion: That the minutes of the Publications Committee meeting held by teleconference on 20 January 2016, as amended, be accepted.

Moved: Wal Whalley

Seconded: Ken Hodgkinson

Carried

- 5. Matters arising from previous minutes** (not listed as specific agenda items)

5.1 Complimentary Memberships

At its last meeting Council formulated a policy regarding complimentary memberships following a recommendation from the Publications Committee (PC). Complimentary membership will be extended to the Editor-in-Chief, Chair of PC, Associate Editors and Fellows. Council requested that the PC provide it with a list of these individuals for ratification by 31 January each year. The Web Site Editor will then be requested to provide access to the Members Area for these individuals. The policy does not provide complimentary membership for the RMN Editor, Web Site Editor, or Social Media Editor but these individuals do require access to the Members Area of the web site. The list of complimentary memberships proposed for 2016 (below) had been circulated by Ron Hacker. The PC discussed whether complimentary membership should be extended to Advisory Editors but determined by motion not to recommend this to Council.

Chair, Publications Committee	Ron Hacker
Editor in Chief	Paul Novelly
Acting Editor-in-Chief	Wal Whalley (also Assoc. Editor and Fellow)
Associate Editor	Pauline Dube
Associate Editor	Neil MacLeod
Associate Editor	Tony Pressland

Associate Editor	Brandon Bestelmeyer
Associate Editor	Mark Stafford-Smith
Associate Editor	Digby Race
Associate Editor	Glenda Wardle
Associate Editor	Wal Whalley
Associate Editor	Bernard Hubert
Associate Editor	Anna Cingolani
Associate Editor	Ling Wang
Associate Editor	Fujiang Hou
Associate Editor	Ian Watson
Fellow of ARS	Ken Hodgkinson
Fellow of ARS	Wal Whalley
Fellow of ARS	Gary Bastin
Fellow of ARS	Joan Gibbs
Fellow of ARS	Alan Wilson

Motion: That the list of complimentary memberships for 2016 remain as above.

Moved: Wal Whalley

Seconded: Paul Novelty

Carried.

Action: Ron Hacker to advise Council of the recommended complimentary memberships for 2016 and request that Council advise these individuals of their status as complimentary members.

6. Progress report on *The Rangeland Journal*

6.1. Report from Editor-in-Chief (Paul Novelty and former A/Editor-in-Chief Wal Whalley).

Issue 1 for 2016 is now online. Wal Whalley is working to complete the Special Issue on the Australian Feral Camel Management Project which will be issue 2 for 2016. This will comprise 11 papers of which two are currently on-line, six are accepted, and three require only minor revision. The cover photo has been chosen but the paper nominated for Open Access has not yet been chosen. The guest editorial is currently being written. The expected publication date is 14 April.

In keeping with the negotiated transition arrangements Wal Whalley will finalise general (i.e. not special issue) manuscripts submitted up to 29 February and Paul Novelty will take over all manuscripts submitted thereafter as well as the Climate Clever Beef Special Issue. Sole responsibility for individual manuscripts is required as Paul and Wal cannot see what each other is doing within the ScholarOne system. Paul currently has 11 papers in progress and potentially available for Issue 3. For the Climate Clever Beef special issue (scheduled for publication in the second half of 2016) there are currently seven papers ready to go; this issue is progressing well and could be advanced to issue 3 if necessary. Wal Whalley will complete the processing of over 20 manuscripts received before February 29 of which probably about 10 will be accepted. Although the publication date for issue 1 of 2016 slipped we are now in a strong position to recover the schedule for 2016.

Action: Wal Whalley to advise Don Burnside when the 'Camel' Special Issue is on-line so that the invoice can be issued.

Ron Hacker noted that the abstracts for the most recent issue of TRJ have not yet been loaded on the web site. Wal Whalley indicated that he had compiled the abstracts for 6/2015 but Camilla Osborn's personal commitments had precluded the uploading. He has already provided Camilla with the compiled abstracts for 1/2016 and offered to do this for subsequent issues. This offer was gratefully accepted.

Action: Wal Whalley to compile the abstracts for each issue of TRJ and provide them to Camilla Osborn for posting, on an ongoing basis.

6.2 Extension of CSIRO Publishing contract

An extension of 12 months to the current Contract has been agreed by PC, Council and CSIRO Publishing to allow Paul Novelly to settle in and make an informed contribution to this process. CSIRO Publishing had promised that a contract variation would be provided last week but this has not yet arrived and needs to be followed up with Chris Anderson's replacement (Dr Jenny Foster). It was agreed that the new tendering process should be commenced early.

Action: Tenders to be called in November 2016 with a cut-off date of early February 2017.

6.3 Associate Editors and Advisory Editors

Associate Editors. Paul Novelly requested that the Publications Committee give some thought to appointment of new Associate Editors (AEs) particularly in the areas of wildlife and economics where AEs have either not accepted re-appointment or may resign. In any event the number of AEs is not adequate for the number of manuscripts now being received. The PC noted that appointments are made by Council on the recommendation of the PC.

The process for making new appointments will be that the Editor-in-Chief (E-i-C) will approach potential candidates identified by himself or other members of the PC and, if interested, request that a CV be provided for consideration by the PC and subsequent advice to Council. The E-i-C is free to advise potential candidates that appointment will attract complimentary membership of the Society.

Ken Hodgkinson noted that the forthcoming International Rangelands Congress might be a good place to solicit interest in appointments. Paul Novelly mentioned Malcolm Kennedy, Peter Fleming, Roger Pech and Grant Norbury as possible appointments in the wildlife area.

Action: Publications Committee members to advise Paul Novelly of individuals considered appropriate for appointment as Associate Editors, including contact details and brief background.

Advisory Editors. Ron Hacker noted the ongoing difficulty in contacting Prof. Nan Zhibou to determine his willingness to accept an extension of appointment. Ken Hodgkinson indicated that he would continue to try to make contact or obtain information re. Prof Nan's circumstances. However in the meantime the appointment has expired and it was agreed that Prof. Nan's name should be removed from the web site and the inside cover of TRJ.

Ron Hacker raised the suggestion made by Wal Whalley after the last meeting that Dr David Cottle (University of New England) may be a suitable Advisory Editor to replace Dr Brian Walker. Ron noted that he has extensive experience in editing/publication but questioned if his area of expertise, in animal production and animal nutrition, was central to the scope of TRJ. Ron suggested Prof. Mark Westoby as an alternative and this was agreed by the PC.

Action: Ron Hacker to approach Prof Mark Westoby to assess his interest in appointment as an Advisory Editor; David Eldridge to provide Ron with Prof. Westoby's contact details.

6.4 Special issues

Mongolian steppe ecosystem

The contract has been signed by the President but has not yet been countersigned and returned

Mining and Energy in Northern Australia

Jocelyn Davies advised that this issue will not go ahead.

Vegetation regeneration in the former NW Catchment Management Area

Wal Whalley reported that plans for the conference are progressing and he will keep the PC informed.

6.5 Disparity in on-line subscription rates for TRJ

Don Burnside had sought advice from Chris Anderson on this matter before his retirement but has had no response. The matter should be taken up with Dr Anderson's replacement Dr Jenny Foster.

Action: Don Burnside to seek advice from Dr Jenny Foster.

6.6 TRJ Publication Schedule for 2016

Action: Wal Whalley to distribute the 2017 publication schedule to the PC.

6.7 Special Issue Production Protocol.

Ron Hacker had circulated the document 'Special Issue Production Protocol' following the request from the last PC meeting to document this process since Special Issues, in their present form, are a relatively new feature of TRJ's operations. The document outlines four stages in the production of Special Issues (Proposal, Contract, Production and Billing) and sets out the responsibilities of individuals and the PC throughout this process. The PC considered the document and agreed that while it is basically for the guidance of the PC and E-i-C it should be forwarded to Council for endorsement as it prescribes actions for the President.

Motion: That the document 'Special Issue Production Protocol' be forwarded to Council

Moved: Don Burnside

Seconded: David Eldridge

Carried.

Action: Ron Hacker to forward the document to Council.

6.8 Post-acceptance changes to manuscripts

Ron Hacker noted that the agreement with CSIRO Publishing to highlight post-acceptance changes to authors and the E-i-C via track changes in a Word document does not appear to be working. The matter needs to be taken up again.

Action: Ron Hacker to take up the issue with Jenny Foster.

7. Range Management Newsletter

7.1 Report from the Editor

The March issue is being put together. Noelene would like at least one report from someone attending the IRC in Saskatoon for the next Newsletter. It was agreed that individuals who have received travel grants to attend need to provide such a report. (Note: The ARS web site indicates that travel grant recipients are expected to write an article on their activities suitable for publication in the Range Management Newsletter or The Rangeland Journal as appropriate, and for the Australian Rangeland Society web site within six months of completion of their travel).

Action: Carol Ireland to send details of the three travel grant recipients to Noelene Duckett

Paul Novelly indicated that he is still unable to access the Members Area of the web site and hence the current issue of RMN. Since Annabel Walsh has taken over from Graeme Tupper as subscription secretary in the last week she should now be able to facilitate Paul's complimentary membership and access to the Members Area. Otherwise Ron Hacker will arrange with Fat Beehive to provide Paul with access.

Action: Ron Hacker to contact Paul Beaton of FatBeehive (if necessary) to allow Paul Novelly access to the members area.

8. ARS web site

8.1 Report from Website Editor

No report

A number of pages require updating on the web site and Ron Hacker will contact Camilla Osborn to request these changes.

Action: Ron Hacker to advise Camilla Osborn of updates required to the web site.

9. Social Media

9.1. Report from Social Media Editor

Ron Hacker spoke briefly to the draft quarterly report submitted by Amber Marshall. The report is comprehensive and provides an excellent overview of how social media management is addressing the stated objectives of the Society for its social media activity. The number of 'Likes' is continuing to grow and the Social Media Editor is successfully building on the foundation established by Heidi Wright.

Action: Ron Hacker to distribute the final report to the PC and Council.

9.2. Draft policy documents

Ron Hacker had circulated the document 'Social Media User's Manual' which has been compiled from the three policy documents prepared by Heidi Wright. It was agreed that this document is basically an internal working document for guidance of the PC and the Social Media Editor and does not require Council approval apart from the Facebook Terms and Conditions which will be posted on the web site.

Action: Ron Hacker to send the Social Media User's Manual to Council for information and request approval of the Facebook Terms and Conditions.

10. General business

10.1 Report for 2016 Annual General Meeting

The report from the PC will need to include brief sections from the RMN Editor, Web Site Editor and the Social Media Editor. Ron Hacker will circulate the 2015 report as a basis for compiling the 2016 report, and seek advice from David Phelps regarding the deadline for submission.

Action: Ron Hacker to circulate the 2015 report to the 2016 contributors and request advice from David Phelps re. the deadline for submission.

10.2 Later time for meetings

PC members agreed that the later time of 6 pm (NSW time) would suit several members better and this was agreed for the next meeting.

11. Date of 2016 meetings

It was agreed that the meeting scheduled for 11 May 2016 was unnecessary as there would be no report from the PC considered at the Annual General Meeting on 25 May. Any urgent matters can be handled out-of-session. Dates for subsequent PC meetings are:

13 July (Carol Ireland not available to take the Minutes)

14 September (Ron Hacker overseas)

23 November

The meeting closed at 6.35pm.