

# THE AUSTRALIAN RANGELAND SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Meeting on Wednesday, 14 February, 2018  
By teleconference

## MINUTES

Ron Hacker opened the meeting and welcomed members at 6.02 pm (AEDT)

1. **Present:** Ron Hacker (Chair), Andrew Ash, Don Burnside, Paul Novelly, Wal Whalley, Jocelyn Davies, Noelene Duckett, David Eldridge, Jodie Ward (joined 6.45 pm),

2. **Apologies:** Jen Silcock

3. **Additional items for general business:**  
Nil

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

Motion: That the minutes of the Publications Committee meeting held by teleconference on 22 November 2017 be accepted as circulated

Moved: Wal Whalley

Seconded: David Eldridge

Carried

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

Nil

6. **The Rangeland Journal**

6.1. *Report from Editor-in-Chief*

Issues 5 and 6 of Vol. 39 (2017) have been published as a combined issue (160 pages) being the Restore, Regenerate, Revegetate (RRR) Special Issue. Hard copies have yet to be received. In 2017 TRJ received 117 manuscripts, 21 of which were re-submitted and given a different number. Volume 39 ran to approx. 570 pages. There are currently eight accepted manuscripts for the first issue of 2018.

**Action:** Paul to liaise with Guest Editors of Special Issues to estimate final page numbers and ensure that we do not exceed 600 pages for the year.

6.2. *Special issues*

6.2.1. Mongolian plateau

Status of papers: All papers (10) accepted, except for one. Introduction and synthesis papers are still in preparation. Papers are generally short and the issue will probably be less than 100 pages. Date of completion not likely to be before the end of March so most likely to be published as Issue 2. Issue 1 will be published as soon as sufficient papers are available (whether ordinary or Special Issue).

**Action:**

- (1) Jocelyn to advise Prof Gao that the Special issue will most likely be published as Issue 2.
- (2) Paul to advise CSIRO to publish issue 1 as soon as sufficient papers are available.

#### 6.2.2. Northern Development

Papers rolling in a bit more slowly than anticipated. It is expected eight papers will be received by mid-February with a total of 10 papers in the special issue, including a substantive introductory paper. Papers are now going out for review. The anticipated publication timeline is July 2018. The contract for publication has been finalised and is with CSIRO and the President for signature.

#### 6.2.3. Biennial Conference 2017

Managed by Program Committee. Editors are Martin Andrew and Russ Sinclair. Sixteen invitations accepted for full papers, plus the rapporteur paper and a looking forward/looking back paper (reflecting on similar papers at earlier conferences). One manuscript received to date. Five invitations accepted for short papers. Publication is expected in October, 2018 (issue 5). If all acceptances result in published papers there may be more material than required for a single issue. Paul asked Don to keep a watching brief on the total numbers and size of papers to determine if a combined issue is feasible.

#### 6.2.4. Topics for future Special Issues

Ron followed up on Special Issue on the Wambiana project. Peter O'Reagain is enthusiastic but not until 2020 so Special Issues are still needed for 2019. Discussion of a special issue to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Westoby *et al.* has been delayed but the matter is still under consideration by Anne Waters-Bayer and colleagues in Europe.

**Action:** Paul to follow up with potential guest editors if no response in the next 2-3 weeks.

#### 6.3. *Status of CSIRO Publishing contract*

The draft contract is with CSIRO and it should be in a position to be signed off.

**Action:** Ron to follow up in the next week.

#### 6.4. *Associate Editor guidelines for book reviews*

Council accepted the policy on book reviews in TRJ proposed by the Publications Committee. Paul won't use Associate Editors for book reviews and will handle any review, and modifications required, personally. Paul has been contacted by Vic Squires to see if TRJ would accept a review of a new book on effects of climate variability on livelihoods in rangelands.

**Action:** David to contact Vic Squires and arrange for a copy of the book to be forwarded to Paul Novelty

#### 6.5. *Input from CSIRO Publishing following Port Augusta discussions*

##### 6.5.1. Images for Table of Contents

Ron questioned whether a policy or guidelines was/were needed for images for the Table of Contents. All agreed that a policy was not needed and that the *status quo* should remain for the present.

**Action:** Paul to advise CSIRO Publishing that TRJ will not require authors to provide images for the Table of Contents at this time but the option will be kept under review.

#### 6.5.2. Update of TRJ cover

Various options had been circulated and nine members of PC had expressed their view by email prior to the meeting. Ron summarised the input. Logo colour needs to be ochre which is the Society's standard. Everyone is in agreement that the logo should be in the top right corner. Only difference in views related to the positioning of the volume and issue numbers. If these go above the logo, the logo will be smaller but it will attract people's eyes to the logo area.

**Motion:** That the ARS logo is placed in the top right corner of the cover, below the volume and issue details, and that the logo and colour bar be ochre in colour.

Moved: Wal Whalley

Seconded: Don Burnside

Carried with Paul Novelly dissenting (re. placement of volume/issue details)

**Action:** Ron to convey this decision to CSIRO Publishing. (A revised mock-up will be requested for approval by Council if necessary).

David Eldridge raised a concern with the use of "especially" on the cover when in his view "particularly" would be more appropriate. All agreed. He also noted the misspelling of 'Australia' after his name on the inside front cover.

**Action:** Paul to request CSIRO Publishing to make these changes

### 7. Range Management Newsletter

#### 7.1 Report from Editor

Noelene thinks the RMN will be out on time in March. Wal has provided an article on the RRR conference and the Special Issue. John Taylor didn't attend the SRM meeting this year but indicated that five Australians did attend but he didn't know any of them, which struck him as unusual. Noelene will chase them up to see if a report can be provided for the RMN. Noelene has some other potential articles for the next issue which she is pursuing.

#### 7.2 Council response to RMN development paper

Recommendations for future development of RMN, based on the paper written by Ron Hacker and Noelene Duckett, have been sent to Council but a final decision has not yet been reached.

### 8 ARS web site

#### 8.1 Report from Editor

No report available. The position has been advertised through social media and a response was received from an individual apparently at Kansas State University. Ron forwarded the role statement and requested a CV but there has been no response. Jodie Ward indicated that the person is now back in Australia, has a Masters in Communication obtained in the US and would be excellent in the role.

**Action:** Ron to follow up through Jodie Ward.

Someone needs to run the website in the interim. Ron has not been able to get a response from Camilla. Ron asked whether Jodie or Noelene might be able to take it on. Jodie indicated that she has no experience in web site management and has a lot on in the coming months. Noelene agreed to support the web site until a replacement for Camilla is found. Ron indicated this shouldn't involve more than posting Council and PC minutes, updating lists (e.g. Associate Editors) and updating news items.

**Action:** Noelene to assume management of the web site until a Web Site Editor is appointed.

### *8.2 Range Management Newsletter index*

Noelene Duckett has contacted Fat Beehive on several occasions to upload the RMN Table of Contents but has had difficulty obtaining a response. They have recommended establishing a web library function but have not provided any indication of the cost or wider usefulness of this. Noelene has emailed six times since Christmas to follow-up and there has been no response.

**Action:** Don to follow up by phone in the first instance. Noelene to provide Don with more detailed background.

### *8.3 Biennial Conference Proceedings*

No progress has been made in getting these past conference proceedings loaded on to the website. Camilla has all the scanned proceedings on disks and Ron is keen to retrieve them so that someone else can do the job now that Camilla has resigned. Ron has been having trouble getting in contact with Camilla.

**Action:** Ron to try contacting Camilla on Facebook. If she can't be contacted the proceedings might need to be retrieved from the Global Rangelands Repository.

### *8.4 Video of John Milne Memorial Rangeland Journal Lecture*

Mark Howden has sent slides through to the Conference Organisers.

**Action:** Don to follow up with the Conference Secretariat.

### *8.5 Management arrangements - appointment of new Web Site Editor*

**Action:** Ron to follow up with Jodie as per 8.1 above.

## **9 Social Media**

### *9.1 Report from the Social Media Editor*

Jodie provided a verbal report. Initial difficulties with Hootsuite have now been resolved. Jodie is getting a good response from authors of papers at the last conference willing to share their work via social media. Respondents to these posts are advised that the papers are not peer reviewed.

**Action:** Jodie to provide a report on Friday (16 Feb). The report doesn't need to be as detailed as Amber's reports but the same format can be followed.

### *9.2 Discussion paper on strategic role of social media*

Not progressed yet. Paul Novelty noted the constructive discussion between himself, Anne Waters-Bayer and Jodie regarding use of social media to provide a forum for discussion of topical issues.

**Action:** Ron to work with Jodie to draft a discussion paper over the next couple of months. Use of our social media platforms to promote discussion on topical issues will be an aspect of this paper, including guidelines to support robust, respectful interactions among participants.

## **10 General business**

### *10.1 Vacancy on the Publications Committee*

Don Burnside had suggested to Ron Hacker that Daryl Green would be a good addition to the Committee. Ron supported this suggestion and indicated that Daryl is a clear thinker and a good administrator. All agreed he would be an excellent addition as he now has some additional time.

**Action:** Ron to approach Daryl Green to determine his interest in joining the PC.

### *10.2 Responsibilities of PC vs Council*

Better distinction of PC and Council responsibilities is needed to improve efficiency of operations i.e. too many items need to go to Council for approval which can hold up continuity of operations (e.g. appointment of Associate Editors). Don indicated that decisions with significant financial implications would need to go to Council.

**Action:** Ron and Paul to draft a minute that sets out approvals that might be handled by the PC without the need for Council approval; minute to be circulated to the PC out of session and tabled at the next Council meeting on February 28.

### *10.3 Next Biennial Conference*

Paul asked if an Organising Committee has been formed. Ken Hodgkinson is forming a committee and Wal has a few more details.

**Action:** Wal to provide some additional details to Paul.

## **11 Date of future meetings**

To be advised (pending advice re. dates of Council meetings)

Meeting closed at 7.45pm.