

THE AUSTRALIAN RANGELAND SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Meeting on Wednesday, 28 March, 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, Jodie Ward (joined 6.37 pm).
2. **Apologies:** Jen Silcock, Wal Whalley, Jocelyn Davies, Noelene Duckett, David Eldridge, Daryl Green.

It was noted that members present did not constitute a quorum and that business conducted would need to be ratified at the next meeting.

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 14 February 2018 be accepted as circulated.

Moved: Paul Novelly; Seconded: Don Burnside; Carried

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

Nil advised

6. **The Rangeland Journal**

6.1. *Report from Editor-in-Chief*

Issue 1 of Vol. 40 (2018) has been published as a normal issue. The Mongolian Plateau issue will be published as Issue 2 (see discussion below). Papers are being accepted for Issue 3 as another normal issue.

- 6.1.1. Book reviews. Dr Beverley Henry has agreed to provide a review of Vic Squire's book, probably towards the end of 2018. The committee agreed to accept an offer from Jen Silcock to review of Charles Massy's book *Call of the Reed Warbler*. Paul will handle the 'peer review' process for these reviews before publication.

- 6.1.2. New Journal cover design and text – assume this has been done as Ron Hacker has confirmed the design details with CSIRO Publishing.

6.2. *Special issues*

6.2.1. Mongolian plateau

Advice from Jocelyn Davies: 12 papers accepted, including editorial/ introduction. The final synthesis paper should be submitted in the next few days. Now obtaining photos. An erratum will have to be included due to a mix up of captions and labels in one figure of a paper which has been online since about September. Some other errors which Jocelyn has identified will be sorted out in copy-editing. The issue should be published end of April/early May.

6.2.2. Northern Development

Nine papers have been submitted, and reviews of those papers are coming in. A couple of papers have dropped out so the issue is likely to contain 9-10 papers rather than 11-12 but should still make close to 100 pages. One paper presented from a NRM Planning perspective contains strong views and will be reviewed carefully for its integrity. In principle, however, the PC does not object to this style of paper. The contract for publication has been signed and an invoice (\$10,000 ex. GST) submitted by ARS to CSIRO for payment.

6.2.3. Biennial Conference 2017

Being managed by Program Committee, chaired by Russ Sinclair and Martin Andrew. As at 5 March, three full manuscripts and three short manuscripts have been received and are with reviewers. Reviewers have been decided for other promised papers. Publication is still expected in October, 2018 (issue 5). The team preparing the Foresighting review paper met recently, confirmed their commitment and agreed a plan. Barney Foran has since produced the outline paper with full introduction.

6.2.4. Potential Commemorative Issue in 2019

Further discussion of a special issue to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Westoby *et al.* A special issue dealing with the lack of influence of modern ecological theory (disequilibrium, state-and-transition) on development policy, especially in Africa, would be a suitable commemorative volume. Could also include consideration of fragmentation of rangeland/ pastoral communities – hence containing a good mixture of rural sociology and ecological material.

Action: Paul and Ron to develop a response to Ann Waters-Bayer, inviting her (in the first instance) to develop a proposal for a Special Issue along these lines, including an identified funding source.

6.2.5 Potential special issue on rangeland regeneration

At Paul's request, Professor Dong has resubmitted his proposal for a Special Issue on rangeland regeneration which was expected to contain papers from a number of countries. However, his proposal contains all Chinese papers except for one. After discussion, agreed that we decline Professor Dong's proposal.

Action: Paul to advise Professor Dong that his second proposal for a Special Issue is declined on the basis that it contains an insufficient number of non-Chinese papers.

6.3. Status of CSIRO Publishing contract

The contract with CSIRO has been signed.

7. Range Management Newsletter

7.1 Report from Editor

Noelene submitted a report, as follows. The March issue of the newsletter is now finished and will be published on the website by Wednesday 27 March. It contains an editorial by David Phelps, notice of the AGM, an updated ARS Travel Grant/Scholarship notice and a number of other articles.

8 ARS web site

8.1 Report from Acting Editor (Noelene Duckett)

Noelene submitted a report, as follows. Since assuming the role of Acting Website Editor, Noelene has carried out a number of routine updating tasks including:

- Uploaded outstanding Council and Publications Committee minutes to the members area
- Updated the news section with a few recent items of interest
- Updated the TRJ abstracts for the latest volume
- Looked into uploading the video of the 2017 John Milne Memorial Rangeland Journal Lecture given by Mark Howden. The other Rangeland Journal lectures are uploaded onto the “ausrangesoc” YouTube channel with appropriate links from the ARS website. Noelene would like to link this latest video in a similar way however no-one seems to know the login password for this YouTube channel.

Action: Ron/ Noelene to contact past PC members (Ken Hodgkinson, Russell Grant) and Carol Ireland who may know the password.

8.2 *Range Management Newsletter Index.*

Noelene is still having issues with Fat Beehive regarding the uploading of the RMN Archive Index on to the website and also trying to get some page visit statistics for individual newsletters. Unfortunately Fat Beehive has not responded to any of her requests.

Action: Don to follow up with Janine Howard and Toast O’Neill at Fat Beehive.

8.3 *New Website Editor*

Ron advised that two expressions of interest have been received. One is from an individual who lives at Alexandria Station on the Barkly Tableland. The location of the other is not known at this stage.

Action: Ron will follow up with the two applicants for the position of Website Editor.

9 **Social Media**

9.1 *Report from the Social Media Editor*

Jodie is compiling bio-sketches of PC members for posting on the FB page – five already in. Heidi Wright is doing her weekly posts. Assume her contract is for calendar 2018. Ron suggested that it would be helpful if Jodie could present a written report on social media usage and impact at each PC meeting, similar to those previously provided by Amber Marshall, but shorter. Jodie agreed.

Action: Jodie to present a written report on social media usage and impact at the next PC meeting (16 May), and at subsequent meetings.

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

Ron had prepared a discussion paper that had been circulated to PC members. Responses to this paper, and the specific questions posed, will form the basis for development of a paper for Council by Ron and Jodie.

Action: PC members to provide feedback on the social media discussion paper by COB 13 April 2018.

10 **General business**

No items of general business were raised.

11 *Responsibilities of PC vs Council*

Ron and Paul have prepared a paper that sets out approvals that might be handled by the PC without the need for Council approval. The paper was tabled at the February 28 meeting of Council but no response has been received yet.

12 Date of future meetings

16 May

27 June

29 August

7 November

Meeting closed at 7.20 pm.

DRAFT