

THE AUSTRALIAN RANGELAND SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Meeting on Wednesday, 27 June, 2018 by teleconference

MINUTES

Ron Hacker opened the meeting and welcomed members at 6.03 pm (EST).

1. **Present:** Ron Hacker (Chair), Don Burnside, Daryl Green, Wal Whalley, Andrew Ash, Noelene Duckett, Russell Grant
2. **Apologies:** David Eldridge, Paul Novelly, Jen Silcock, Jocelyn Davies
3. **Additional items for general business:**

None

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

Motion: That the minutes of the Publications Committee meeting held by teleconference on 16 May 2018 be accepted as circulated.

Moved: Wal Whalley; Seconded: Andrew Ash; Carried.

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

None

6. **The Rangeland Journal**

6.1. *Report from Editor-in-Chief*

A report from Paul Novelly was tabled. Two issues for 2018 have been published, and Issue 3 is on the website as the 'current issue'. Hard copies will be distributed soon. After three issues the total page count is approx. 300 and is 'on track'. Approximately 67 manuscripts have been submitted to date in 2018. Submission of manuscripts slowed in June, as in 2017, probably due to the northern summer holiday season. If the second half of the year is similar, it will result in a 'good year' for the Journal.

6.2. *Special issues (SIs)*

6.2.1. *Northern Development*

Advice from Andrew Ash: 7 papers accepted (one will be provocative), 2 more progressing well, one needs more assistance. The issue is likely to be 100 pages. CSIRO Publishing has identified some manuscripts as crossing the plagiarism threshold. This is due to authors quoting their own work from 'unpublished' client reports that are on-line. The PC considered that this did not present an issue of concern. Will be published late 2018.

In general discussion it was noted that cases of 'self-plagiarism' arising from authors quoting their own on-line but 'unpublished' work will probably increase with both reports and theses now commonly being on-line.

6.2.2. *2017 Biennial Conference*

Proceeding well, with publication likely in early 2019. EiC is maintaining contact with Guest Editors. Minor problems in deciding how Lightning Presentations should be published as short papers, but this is being resolved.

6.2.3. Special issue (SI) for later in 2019

Ron highlighted the lack of a firm commitment for a SI in second half of 2019, as follows:

- Ann Waters-Bayer has been unable to progress a special issue on the impact of disequilibrium theory on rangeland policy and practice.
- Mark Westoby is interested in contributing to a SI to mark the 30th anniversary of the 1989 paper, but no firm commitment.
- Peter O'Reagain is interested in having the Wambiana Grazing Trial featured in a SI, but the earliest possible date would be 2020. There is a possibility that MLA would fund such an issue.
- A SI could be developed from a major MLA funded Total Grazing Pressure project being led by NSW DPI. Part of the project led by Cathy Waters (NSW DPI) will review TGP literature and lay the basis for an R,D&A program. A part led by Katrina Sinclair (NSW DPI) is looking at the red meat industry's 'social licence to operate' in relation to practices for kangaroo and feral/pest animal control. Cameron Allan (MLA) has indicated some interest in such a SI. Ron will have further discussions with Cathy and Katrina.
- Chinese grassland issue. Unfortunately Saumitra Banerjee (CSIRO Publishing Production Editor) could not discuss with the likely editor face-to-face, but will continue negotiations.

6.3. Virtual issue

A 'virtual issue' is a collection of notable papers from previous issues around a theme. It is published on-line and open access as a means of promoting the journal. Ron has obtained a list of all papers for the last 7 years from CSIRO and will consider what themes could be developed. Virtual issue will be published on the CSIRO website in 2018.

Action: Ron to prepare list of potential papers for publication in a virtual issue.

In addition, the PC agreed that if no SI eventuates from the contact with Mark Westoby we could produce a virtual issue comprising papers relevant to state and transition theory in 2019, to commemorate the publication of Westoby *et al.* in 1989.

6.4. Publication metrics

PC discussed the paper on journal metrics circulated by Paul Novelly and the offer by Jocelyn Davies to extract some of these from Web of Science. As the CSIRO contract requires them to provide reports to the PC as reasonably requested, in addition to the annual report, it was decided that CSIRO would be asked to provide all of the metrics suggested in Paul's paper. In addition, CSIRO will be asked – if possible – to report data on the citing of TRJ papers in extension material published by state agencies, regional NRM organisations etc. This is in addition to data on the numbers of downloads (domestic and international) which may also reflect the influence of the journal in the extension field.

Action: Ron to follow up with CSIRO.

The TRJ's impact factor (IF) for 2017 was 1.080 down from 1.211 the previous year, due particularly to the low rate of citation of papers published in 2016. This is disappointing, given the evidently strong recognition of several papers published in SIs in 2016 (Australian Feral Camel Management

project and Climate Clever Beef). In contrast, there was a high citation rate for papers published in 2015 (87 citations from 58 papers) when the SIs were for Chinese grasslands and the 18th Biennial Conference. Need to recognise that it takes time for the citations to come through so the 2016 SIs may be cited more frequently in 2018. Jenny Foster CSIRO has agreed to do an analysis of the citations contributing to the 2017 IF. Despite the slight drop in IF TRJ retained its broad ranking and is listed as 118/158 journals in the Ecology category.

In general discussion it was recognised that the success of the journal should not be measured just by IF. Downloads may be important even if they do not result in citations, especially if they influence practical management.

Nevertheless, IF is important in attracting overseas authors to TRJ, which is necessary to meet the publication schedule given the general decline in rangeland research in Australia.

7. Range Management Newsletter

7.1. Report from Editor

Noelene Duckett tabled a report. She has commenced putting together the July issue of the RMN. Noelene would appreciate more technical / general interest articles in addition to ARS administrative matters. Content of the next issue will include an article about Bush Heritage (David Phelps), obituary for Andrew Nicolson Snr (Martin Andrew), obituary for David Goodall (David Eldridge and Ron Hacker), plus administrative matters.

8. ARS web site

8.1. Staffing and transitional arrangements

Russell Grant was warmly welcomed as the new Website Editor (a role he has held previously). Noelene was thanked for stepping in as interim Editor following the resignation of Camilla Osborn. ZymZen has been asked to provide administrators' access to the site for Russell but this has not yet been done.

8.2. Web site migration

Migration of the ARS site to the new ZymZen server (following the hacking the original server by Pakistani terrorists) has been delayed until 12-13 July. Once migration is complete it will be necessary for ARS to certify that the site is working correctly. Given the time frame, checking of the general site functionality is probably best done by Noelene. Don will need to check that the financial functionality is working correctly.

Action: Noelene and Don to check the functionality of the web site once migration to the new server is complete.

8.3. Web site development

ZymZen and CSIRO are working on establishment of the link from the Members Area of the ARS web site to the TRJ page of CSIRO Publishing. The cost will be \$160/hr plus GST and the job will take 2-3 hours.

Notwithstanding this progress, there are several outstanding items that ZymZen needs to attend to, as follows:

- The index of RMN needs to be uploaded;
- Advice needed on the best way of storing conference proceedings (7 conference proceedings not yet available);

- Do we need a library function?

It was agreed that Russell and Ron should visit ZymZen in Sydney to establish a direct relationship with the key contacts and discuss the developments that are required.

Motion: That PC recommend to Council that Ron and Russell should meet with ZymZen in Surry Hills (Sydney) to resolve outstanding issues. ARS to fund travel and accommodation.

Moved: Don Burnside
Seconded: Noelene Duckett
Carried.

9. Social Media

9.1. Report from the Social Media Editor

Ron reported that Jodie Ward has submitted her resignation as Social Media Editor, as she feels unable to commit sufficiently to the requirements.

Heidi Wright (Wright Social) who is already providing services to ARS has been asked if she could take over as SME as an interim measure. Her quote for maintaining the accounts and making a minimal number of weekly posts is \$316 + GST per month (\$347.60 incl. GST).

Motion: That PC recommend to Council that Wright Social be contracted to carry out the SME role for an initial period of three months (subject to confirmation that the quoted price includes the current service and is not additional).

Moved: Don Burnside
Seconded: Andrew Ash
Carried

9.2. Discussion paper on strategic role of social media

The PC suggested that the paper prepared by Ron be sent to Heidi Wright for review. A small payment to her can be made. Following that review, the paper will be submitted to Council without further consideration by the PC.

10. General business

10.1. Obituary for David Goodall

This has been written and is located on the website.

11. Date of future meetings

29 August

7 November

Meeting closed at 7.30 pm.