

THE AUSTRALIAN RANGELAND SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE (PC)

Meeting on Wednesday, 7 November, 2018 by teleconference

MINUTES

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

1. **Present:** Ron Hacker (Chair), Don Burnside (until 7.17 pm), Daryl Green, Wal Whalley, Russell Grant, Paul Novelty, Noelene Duckett, Jocelyn Davies

2. **Apologies:** David Eldridge, Andrew Ash

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

Renewal of PC appointments; resignation of Jocelyn Davies.

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting – 29 August 2018**

Motion: That the minutes of the Publications Committee meeting held by teleconference on 29 August 2018 be accepted as circulated.

Moved: Wal Whalley; Seconded: Daryl Green. 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*

Paul Novelty reported verbally. Northern Development – Issue 5 (130 pages) has been published. Issue 6 (78 pages) will be published by the end of November. Volume 40 will run to just over 600 published pages – may be a small charge to ARS. There have been 148 papers submitted in 2018 to date. Four papers have been accepted to date for Vol. 41/1.

The comment from McLean and Holmes challenging interpretation of their data in Russel-Smith and Sangha (Issue 4) contained a small error of fact and has been return to the authors for correction.

6.2. *Special issues (SIs)*

6.2.1. *2017 Biennial Conference*

Two papers worthy of inclusion need further work. Authors of 'Lightning Papers' have been requested to prepare full papers to better illustrate the authors' findings. Major 'Looking back, looking forward' manuscript (Foran et al) has been submitted. The issue is not likely to be published before mid-2019.

6.2.2. *Potential special issues (SI) for 2019*

Ron reported...

- (i) Likely that an issue focusing on Total Grazing Pressure (TGP) management will come to fruition based on two MLA-funded projects conducted by NSW DPI. A set of possible paper titles has been developed in conjunction with the principal investigators (Katrina Sinclair and Cathy Waters). MLA is receptive to funding the SI out of

surplus funds from one of the projects. Katrina has been given the proforma for a submission to PC, and the model contract. Ron Hacker is meeting with Trudie Atkinson (project team member) on 9 November to discuss some of the available content. He is likely to be a Guest Editor. Timing will be difficult if the SI is to be published as part of Volume 41 (2019).

Action: Ron to continue discussions with Katrina Sinclair and other NSW DPI staff.

- (ii) Saumitra Banerjee (CSIRO Publishing) has forwarded the SI proposal proforma to the organisers of the recent Chinese workshop on *Ecological degradation and regeneration of grasslands*. A proposal is expected but has not yet been received. This could result in a SI that would be available for late 2019.
- (iii) No further development on the potential special issue on the influence of disequilibrium theory on pastoral development policies. Paul Novelty has been unable to contact Mark Stafford-Smith and there has been no further contact from Ann Waters-Beyer.

Action: Paul Novelty to seek clarification of the position from Ann Waters-Beyer or Mark Stafford-Smith

- (iv) A SI based on the Wambiana grazing trial could be published in 2020, but funding will be required from MLA.

Action: Ron to follow-up with Peter O'Reagain regarding application to MLA for funding.

6.2.3. Potential SI on drought and drought policy

Suggested by the strategic planning group which met in Brisbane recently. QDAF may have funds available, and it is possible that NSW DPI would be interested. Would be a difficult task to identify papers and authors. Possible sources of papers could be the QDAF Drought Group, ABARES, NFF (which has a drought policy). This is basically a Council initiative and should be progressed initially by Council.

Action: Andrew Ash to talk to QDAF Drought Group.

Action: Ron Hacker to identify a relevant contact in NSW DPI.

6.3. Virtual Issue (VI)

Ron noted the publication of the virtual issue (*Grazing and Biodiversity – The Positive Side*) which is now being actively promoted by CSIRO and Heidi Wright.

6.4. Possibility of commissioning a paper on grazing management of southern Australian rangelands

Don Burnside spoke to the potential for commissioning a paper on this topic to complement the well-cited paper on northern rangelands published by Leigh Hunt *et al.* (2014). Some authors were suggested (Holm, Hacker, Friedel, Hodgkinson). Papers presented at the 2002 Kalgoorlie conference may provide a starting point.

Action: Don to prepare a paper for Council seeking support for the initiative.

6.5. Extension of term of Editor-in-Chief of TRJ

Council has supported the PC sub-committee's recommendation that Dr Paul Novelty's tenure as Editor-in-Chief be extended for three more years, with the

option of a further extension. Paul has not yet been officially advised of this decision by President David Phelps.

Action: Don to request David Phelps to notify Paul Novelty officially and as a matter of urgency about extension of his tenure as EiC.

6.6. Establishment of English language editing group

This group has been established to provide English language editing services to appropriate authors identified by the Editor in Chief. The group, currently comprising Margaret Friedel, Tony Pressland, Wal Whalley and Ron Hacker, commenced operations on 1 November 2018, with the first paper to be referred to it – from China – now being dealt with by Tony Pressland. Currently, there is no charge to authors for the service.

6.7. Re-appointment of Associate and Advisory Editors

Ron Hacker has contacted all Advisory Editors offering a three year extension of their appointments, which expired at the end of September. All who have responded have accepted. Two have yet to respond and will be contacted again.

The term of appointment of 7 Associate Editors has expired and they have been asked if they are happy to continue in the role. To date, all except Ling Wang have replied in the affirmative.

The Chair PC has invited Dr Ali Nefzaoui (Tunisia) to submit an expression of interest in appointment as an Advisory Editor but has received no response to date.

Action: Ron Hacker to follow up Advisory and Associate Editors as required

6.8. Engagement of Advisory Editors

Ron noted that when contacted to renew their appointments, some Advisory Editors were vague about their role and the expectations of them. Ron suggested they need to be more engaged in TRJ-related activities. Agreed actions are:

- Request North American Advisory Editors who may be attending the SRM Meeting in February 2019 to report back on major issues and trends in rangeland science and practice being discussed.
- Provide Advisory Editors with promotional material about TRJ for distribution
- Request each Advisory Editor to review one published paper (of their own choosing) in each issue and report back to the EiC on the quality of content and presentation (e.g. grammar, typos) in the paper.

Action: Ron and Paul to implement the suggested actions.

7. Range Management Newsletter

7.1. Report from Editor

Noelene reported verbally. The next issue will be published in two to three weeks. Noelene is waiting on some articles, in particular information about the 2019 Canberra conference. It was noted that Council has not yet responded to the paper outlining strategy proposals for the RMN.

Action: Don to convey to Council the urgent need for the Canberra Conference Organising Committee to provide information about the Conference for publication in RMN, on the website and in social media.

Action: Don to convey to Council the need to provide formal feedback to the PC on the recommendations for development of the RMN.

8. ARS web site

8.1. *Report from Editor*

Russell reported that he is not currently making changes to the web site. He is finding the web site easy to use and that the functionality for normal management is good but communication with ZymZen for development matters is poor. The membership functionality is good and it is easy to send broadcast emails. However, there are a number of issues to take up with ZymZen:

- The Instagram text;
- Some matters dealing with membership management on Beekeeper (provided to Russell by Don);
- The library function – what will it do and do we need it?
- The failure of an email requested by Don to go to all members (active and inactive) to be universally distributed; the email was received by some members of PC and not others.

Action: Ron Hacker to follow up these and any other matters with Janine Howard; Russell, Noelene and Don to advise Ron of any particular issues they are having with the site.

9. Social Media

9.1. *Report from Wright Social*

The report from Wright Social for the 11 week period August 31 – November 3 was discussed. Heidi has maintained three posts per week to Facebook. The number of tweets (and retweets) has varied from 3-10 per week (average 6). We reach 3-4 times as many people by Twitter as we do by Facebook but the numbers reached are still relatively low. This is probably because we do not pay to 'boost' our posts, as recommended in the recent review of social media activity submitted to Council. It was commented that the information would be more easily understood if presented in tabular form and with some explanation of the meaning of the various parameters.

9.2. *Continuation of Wright Social contract*

Ron reported that Council had passed a motion extending Wright Social's contract until such time as a permanent appointment is made, at a cost of \$316 + GST per month.

9.3 *Expressions of Interest in Social Media Editor role*

Council has approved the offer of the position to Sarah Moles but she has yet to advise if she will accept, pending the outcome of an application for a permanent position elsewhere.

10. General Business

10.1. Resignation of Jocelyn Davies

Jocelyn Davies advised that she wishes to resign from the PC with immediate effect as she is taking up an overseas posting. She expressed her thanks for the opportunity to contribute. The PC accepted Jocelyn's resignation and expressed its appreciation for her valued input.

10.2. Membership of PC

Ron Hacker indicated that the terms of some other members of the PC have expired and he will take up the issue of an extension with them.

Action: Ron Hacker to follow up with PC members whose term has expired.

11. Date of future meetings

To be advised once Council sets its meeting dates for 2018.

Meeting closed at 7.30 pm.