

# **Minutes of meeting of the Publications Committee of the Australian Rangeland Society held on 25 August 2011 by Teleconference**

Meeting commenced at 5 pm EST.

## **1. Present**

Ken Hodgkinson (in Chair)  
Wal Whalley  
Peter Johnston  
Russell Grant  
Noelene Duckett  
Don Burnside  
Carolyn Ireland (Minute Secretary)

## **2. Apologies**

Murray MacGregor  
Jocelyn Davies  
David Eldridge

## **3. Minutes of teleconference meeting on 26 July 2011**

Minutes circulated before the meeting were accepted as a true record and it is understood that they remain confidential to the Publications Committee; Moved Wal/Seconded Noelene/Carried.

## **4. Matters arising from minutes of 30 June and 26 July 2011 meetings**

### **4.1 Increase membership of Publications Committee**

Carried over to a future meeting.

### **4.2 Letter to NRM's etc**

Carried over to a future meeting.

### **4.3 Publisher for The Rangeland Journal**

Council approved recommendation. Ken is working with Chris Anderson to draft a contract for Council to consider and sign off on.

### **4.4 Editor-in-Chief of The Rangeland Journal**

Publications Committee recommended to Council that John Milne be appointed as Editor-in-Chief. Council offered John the job for 3 years with the option for a two year extension dependent on a performance review. John replied in the affirmative. From 22 August 2011 John has been acting as the new EiC. Draft itinerary for a visit in November. CSIRO Publishing has said that the \$2,500 in their budget can be used for this. Need to apply to Council for more travel funds; Ken to estimate costs and to contact John for an Out-of-Session decision of Council. Mark Stafford Smith has agreed to be chief speaker at the symposium on 17 November at ANU. How to arrange for John to speak with Wal? Wal in Sydney on 22 November. Has a problem with phone meeting on 15 November so it can be shifted to Wed 16 November. Ken and Wal to work on arrangements. Don: would it be good for John to catch up with some members of the Society in Queensland. Maybe in Charters Towers rather than Brisbane. Ken to talk to John Taylor. Could also meet with John at Brisbane Airport. Public meetings to be called the Rangeland Journal Meetings.

### **4.5 Global Rangelands Repository**

Ken in contact with Barbara Hutchinson. The GRR people would prefer material to be loaded onto our site and for them to access it there. Conference Proceedings to be copied in

USA and sent back for posting on our website. Ken making pdf's of the RMN articles.

**4.6 Associate Editor Appointments**

Carried over to a future meeting.

**4.7 Any other business**

None

**5. Range Management Newsletter.**

**5.1 Format changes**

Now exists as both online and hard copy. Hard copy is past its prime and in desperate need of an update. Now members will need to pay extra for a hardcopy for a trial period. Ken and Noelene need to concentrate efforts on the online version. Changes to the electronic version? Now need to go into Members area and has a table of contents and you can click on these. Should we email it to members instead? Maybe incorporate a direct link to RMN in email. Could the RMN format be addressed in the upcoming membership survey? Noelene to email John Taylor to have this included in the survey. Noelene and Ken to talk to John Taylor and Larissa Lauder.

**5.2 Desired content**

Don: Hope that it contains "grey" literature and that it provides news to members. Russell: thinks some articles have become more like Journal articles – needs to be a bit more informal.

**5.3 Commissioning editors**

Ken: appoint some State-based editors to commission content. Wal: need to be sure that they actually do the job. Ken: Appoint for two years only. How do we find these people? Peter: will start to find some Queensland people – maybe three or four, maybe not as time driven but possibly two articles each. Russell: not many Rangeland people in NSW – pretty well decimated at the moment. Wal: do not have to be members to write an article – this may also attract new members. Don: WA members mostly based in State agencies but not many. Ben Forsyth or Sandra van Vreeswyck may be good people to approach. Kate Forrest for the Rangeland Alliance may also be good. Carolyn: Merri Tothill in SA. Don: Dionne Walsh in the NT.

**5.4 Any other matters**

Peter: Good quality colour photos in the on-line version are a great advantage. Ken: can we find ways to link other materials into the RMN – costs may be involved. Ken and Noelene are still coming to terms with how to upload back issues. Don: Frequency of publication? Maybe go to two slightly meatier issues but retain the capacity to send out email alerts. Wal: would rather have 3 smaller issues – size is about right, Peter agreed. Ken: Leave it at three issues a year. Noelene: maybe we have more frequent email alerts, someone needed to take the initiative to do this. Noelene to tackle the issue of the membership survey.

**6. Date for next meeting** to focus on Associate and Commissioning Editors while John Milne is in Australia: Wednesday 16 November 2011

**7. Any other business**

No other business.

The meeting closed at 6 pm.