

# **Minutes of meeting of the Publications Committee of the Australian Rangeland Society held 4 and 5 September 2006 in Renmark, South Australia, Australia.**

Meeting commenced at 5 pm on 4 September.

- 1. Present:** Andrew Ash (Associate Editor)  
Don Burnside  
David Eldridge  
Ken Hodgkinson (in Chair)  
Peter Johnston  
Neil Macleod (Associate Editor)  
'Ben' Norton (Associate Editor)  
'Wal' Whalley

There were apologies from Kate Andrews and Ian Oliver.

## **Opening comments:**

The Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked the Associate Editors for their voluntary work.

## **2 and 3. Minutes of last meetings:**

The minutes of the Alice Springs meeting held on 5 July 2004 were accepted [Ash/Eldridge]. It was noted that Matters arising from the Alice Springs meeting were dealt with in the Canberra meeting.

The minutes of the Canberra meeting held on 8 December 2005 were accepted [Burnside/Whalley].

## **4. Correspondence;**

The Chairman tabled 6 items.

1. Minutes of meeting #184 of ARS Council on 29 March 2006.
2. Kenneth Hodgkinson to David Wilcox about PC response to the report of the Review Group on 30 March 2006.
3. David Wilcox to Kenneth Hodgkinson with initial comments about the PC response to the Report on 10 May 2006.
4. Mark Stafford Smith to Kenneth Hodgkinson regards meeting at Renmark with DK CRC people to discuss their publishing requirements on 13 June 2006.
5. Chris Anderson to Kenneth Hodgkinson about scoping meeting for ARS Website on 22 June 2006.
6. David Wilcox to Kenneth Hodgkinson about scoping group for ARS Website on 26 April 2006.

The correspondence was accepted [Burnside/Whalley].

5. There were no matters arising from correspondence that will not be picked up in other agenda items.

### **6.1 Editor's Report ((see Appendix 1)**

The Editor tabled his report and it was accepted [Eldridge/MacLeod].

#### **Discussion on Editor's Report**

1. Ash noted that the PC may need to publish more issues per year. Whalley reported that for 2005 the page limit of 220 was not reached but that in 2006 it may be. He indicated that CSIRO Publishing was hoping the issue number would grow to 3 issues per year.
2. Hodgkinson reported he had verbally approached the CEO of the DKCRC with an invitation for the CRC to promote TRJ as their preferred outlet for publications.
3. The need to consider renewal of the contract with CSIRO Publishing before the end of 2007 was noted. The meeting was unanimous in support for renewal of contract with CSIRO Publishing.
4. Hodgkinson reported that the Organising Committee for the combined IGC/IRC meeting in Hohhot would pay for printing extra copies of the China Special Issue for free distribution at the Congress in 2008. The distribution would be excellent promotion for TRJ and the ARS.

### **6.2 Production Editor's Report (see Appendix 2)**

The report was received [Whalley/Burnside].

#### **Discussion on Production Editor's Report**

1. It was agreed that production of TRJ was going well.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.

### **Continuation of meeting at 12:30 pm on 5 September 2006**

Present: Same as previous day.

#### **Business arising from Minutes of meeting on 8 December 2005**

- 6.3.1 Content analysis. Nothing has been done.
- 6.3.2 Changes to Scope, Notice to Contributors and Call for Papers. Completed.
- 6.3.3 Increase membership of Publications Committee. Names were discussed for the Publications Committee but no resolutions were made.
- 6.3.4 Appointment of further Associate Editors. Hodgkinson tabled a list of names he and others had prepared (see Appendix 3)

After discussion it was decided that the following scientists should be sequentially approached to find if they would be interested in becoming an Associate Editor;

North America: Amy Thurow (Policy and Economics), Mort Kothmann, and Neil West  
South America: Gabriela Lichenstein (Social)  
Africa: Robin Reid (Tourism?)  
Asia: Ruijin Long (Conservation)  
Australia: DKCRC nominee

- 6.3.5 Scanning of national and international conferences and presentations/sessions for Editor. Nothing done.
- 6.3.6 Scanning of AANRO website for scientists with potential papers for Editor. AANRO under cloud regards future through shortage of funds. AANRO not web-searchable data-base from an external enquirer. AANRO not kept up to date. Conclusion: not worth pursuing.
- 6.3.7 Sub-committee (Whalley, Hodgkinson and Burnside) to initiate and vet proposals for Special Issues. DKCRC November Symposium could provide papers for a Special Issue. Issue 1 in 2007 will be based on Renmark conference. Special Issue in 2008 will be assembled for China IGC/IRC. It was suggested the tropical savanna section of the Renmark conference could evolve into a Special Issue. Hodgkinson agreed to talk to MLA about this. Hodgkinson pointed out that the aim for Special Issues was for “hot topics”, either arising from conferences or topics we create, e.g., coal mining and effect on environment and labour pool.
- 6.3.8 Sub-committee (Eldridge, Johnston and Andrews) to draft letter to send to NRMs, CRCs, state and federal organisations. Nothing to report.
- 6.3.9 Survey of policy makers etc. Burnside and Andrews to make contacts; nothing to report.
- 6.3.10 Papers from Renmark Biennial Conference: in progress.
- 6.3.11 Any other Business: ARS needs to know what Publications Committee and Council have done about the Working Group Report, which should have gone out to ARS members.

## **7. Range Management Newsletter (see Appendix 3)**

The report was received [Burnside/Whalley].

We need a sub-committee to work through Newsletter options/costs, etc. Currently Malcolm organises the printing from what Noelene sends him, but that won't last much longer. Subcommittee needs to draw on Working Group Report and what Council has written to the Publications Committee. Publications Committee needs to articulate preferred option for Council. Newsletter needs to publicise info on meetings, conferences and what's going on around Australia to be more useful.

Subcommittee charged to scope and cost a new ARS Newsletter. Nominees: Gary Bastin, Noelene, Ken H., Dave Eldridge and Kate Andrews, plus Doug Campbell from Council. Nominations approved. [Norton/MacLeod]

Ash: Subcommittee should scan successful and unsuccessful newsletters and see what works, what doesn't. For example: Sustainability Newsletter, Biodiversity Newsletter.

Sub-committee report to go to Council by March 2007.

### **WebSite.**

This was a major concern of the Working Group. David Wilcox currently has ownership of website. Future ARS Presidents may not have same interest as David. There was uncertainty as to whether David would step down from his role of "web master".

There was agreement that the Website should be responsibility of the Publications Committee.

Recommendation: Appoint a web site manager from ARS membership, or other suitable individual.

From the Canberra meeting a sub-committee of Hodgkinson, Anderson, Andrews and Campbell was to scope web design, options, costs etc.

Other business: Associate Editors were happy with pre-print of accepted TRJ papers on the CSIRO Publishing website.

Meeting closed at 1:25 pm.

## APPENDIX 1:

### EDITOR'S REPORT

August, 2005

#### Overview

The upturn in the flow of papers that commenced in 2005 following the publication of the first Issue by CSIRO Publications, has continued (Table 1). This has been accompanied by increased rejection of papers so that the number of papers being published has not risen as yet. Volume **28**(1) was a Special Issue on Weeds in Rangelands with Tony Grice as Guest Editor and most of the papers that will make it into Vol. **28**(2) have already been completed and are available on the CSIRO Publishing web site as 'Papers in press'. This facility, provided by CSIRO Publishing, means that once papers have been finalised, they are available to readers who have web access within a couple of weeks.

**Table 1.** Record of papers and the results for 2004 to 2006 to date.

Year	Received	Accepted	Rejected	Pending
2004	19	10	7	2
2005	30	11	15	4
2006 (to date)	30	10	12	8

#### Current status

A Special Issue entitled "Rangelands, Weeds and Biodiversity" with a Guest Editorial and seven papers (81 pages) was published in June, 2006; Vol. **28**(1). The next Issue, Vol. **28**(2), will appear next December and is a regular issue and ten papers are at present available on the 'In press' section of the CSIRO web site. There will be at least a couple more that will make the cut off date for this Issue. I suspect that we will fill our 200 pages for 2006 with maybe a few more. The Council has agreed to the cost overrun if this eventuates.

We made minor changes to the cover for 2006 to make it consistent with the changed emphasis of the Journal in response to the Working Group's report. My inclination is to leave the cover the same for 2007 but will accept the guidance of the Publications Committee on this matter. I like the present bold colours because it makes it easy to find amid the papers on my desk when I need to refer to the latest issue, which I do constantly.

Members will have noted that we no longer publish the full text of the Notice to Contributors in the Journal because it is freely available on both the ARS web site and the CSIRO Publishing web site. If authors do not have internet access (a tiny minority these days) then I will send them paper copies on request.

Chris Anderson has been gradually introducing me to the mysteries of OSPREY, the electronic manuscript entry and handling programme developed and used by CSIRO Publishing. He will be coming to Armidale before the end of the year to give me further instruction and we hope to move to using it more fully in the future. We will retain the facility to handle paper submission of manuscripts for the foreseeable future.

**Most of the recommendations of the Working Group pertaining to the Journal have been, or are being, implemented. The Scope and Notice to Contributors have been altered in response to the changed emphasis and are now filtering through the CSIRO Publications marketing material. I have set up procedures to keep the ARS web site current with respect to the Journal.**

**Paul Erkelenz of Rural Solutions, SA, has agreed to act as a learner Guest Editor for a selection of papers from the Renmark ARS Conference to make up a Special Issue for Vol. 29 (1) in 2007. Last time I spoke to him the planning was proceeding and I will talk with him again at Renmark. The Special Issue for 2008 will be on Chinese grasslands and rangelands and will be distributed to all delegates of the combined International Grassland and International Rangeland Congress at Huhhot, China in June/July, 2008. Planning is proceeding for this issue. It is not too early to start thinking about a Special Issue for 2009.**

### ***The future***

There are two recommendations of the Working Group that need further action from me and from other members of the Publications Committee and the Associate Editors. These are:

1. Appointment of overseas people as Associate Editors and to the expanded Publications Committee. The Chair has this in hand and I hope we can make good progress at our meeting at Renmark.
2. More aggressive soliciting of papers including approaches to executives of different agencies and individual authors. The Chair has made an approach to the Desert Knowledge CRC and we will have further meetings with them at Renmark with the aim of having TRJ promoted as their preferred outlet for publications. Any ideas about how to expand this more aggressive approach to the soliciting of papers would be much appreciated.

The present contract with CSIRO Publishing expires at the end of 2007. I would like to see a firm recommendation from the Publications Committee to the Council for the extension of this contract (with any modifications as deemed desirable) for another three years.

My special thanks to the Associate Editors and to members of the Publications Committee (especially to Ken Hodgkinson) for the support I have received since I became Editor. The support of Chris Anderson, Saumitra Banerjee and the rest of the team at CSIRO Publications and their expertise has been essential for the production of the Journal over the last 18 months or so and deserve all our thanks.

R D B Whalley  
Editor  
23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2005

## APPENDIX 2:

### *The Rangeland Journal*

Editor: Dr Wal Whalley;

Production Editor: Mr Saumitra Banerjee

REPORT on the performance by CSIRO PUBLISHING under the Agreement

*Commercial-in-Confidence*

## APPENDIX 3

REGION	Policy & Economics	Social	Tourism	Conservation	Other
North America	Walter Lusigi (DW) Amy Pagano (KH) Richard Connor (KH)	Mark Brunson (DB)			Michael Coughener (DB) Rob Heitschmidt (DB) Mort Kothman (BN) John Malechek (BN) John Taenaka (BN) Tenaka (BN) JSceff Herrick (DE) Steven Warren (DE) Tom Monaco (DE) Neil West (DB) John Walker (DB)
South America		Gabriela Lichtenstein (Argentina) (IG)		Biba Vila (Argentina) (IG)	Cristian Bonacic (Chile) (IG) Juan B. Cavagnaro (Argentina) (WW)
Africa	Caroline Palmer (DW) Pierre Hiernaux (DB)	Anne Waters-Bayer (DB) Ian Scoones (DB)			Sue Milton (DB) Peter Scogings
Middle	Hamid Najisse	Ahmad			HossieinHossin

East	(DW)	Sudamed (DB)			Arzani (DB) NO-(WW) Hosain Hozani
Asia				Ruijin Long (KH)	ZhiBiao Nan (KH) Totohyn Chuluun (DB) Deli Wang (KH)
Europe		Roy Behnke		Peter Dennis (IG)	John Milne (KH) Fernando Maestre (DE)
Australia	John Holmes (DW) Romy Greiner Mike Young (DW) John Childs (???) NO-(WW) Tim Lynam (DB)	Guy Fitzhardinge (KH) CRC Desert Knowledge (KH)		Steve Morton (???)	Mark Stafford - Smith (DW) Ron Hacker (DW)