

THE AUSTRALIAN RANGELAND SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE (PC)

Meeting on Wednesday, 1 July 2020 by teleconference

MINUTES

Andrew Ash opened the meeting and welcomed members at 6.07 pm (EST). A special welcome was given to Robyn Cowley who has joined the PC.

1. **Present:**

Andrew Ash, Don Burnside, Russell Grant, Paul Novelly, Noelene Duckett, Sarah Moles, Sarah McDonald, Robyn Cowley, Daryl Green

2. **Apologies:**

Jen Silcock

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

Nil

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting – 13 May 2020**

Motion: That the minutes of the Publications Committee meeting held by teleconference on 13 May 2020 be accepted as circulated.

Moved: Don Burnside; Seconded: Paul Novelly. Carried.

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

Nil.

6. **The Rangeland Journal**

6.1. *Report from Editor-in-Chief*

Paul Novelly reported verbally. Fifty nine (59) manuscripts have been submitted in calendar 2020 including twenty three (23) from Australia, 14 from China and 6 from the Middle East. This compares favourably with this time in 2019. Six (6) of these have been accepted, 12 rejected and one is reject and resubmit.

A further 17 are on hand, including 11 'left over' from 2019. Sixteen (16) papers are destined for the ARS2019 Conference SI, with all but one submitted. One further paper required for the SI is being pursued.

Volume 42 Issue 1 (6 volunteered papers plus Walker and Westoby)

Volume 42 Issue 2 will have 6 papers accepted next week and this will be nearly enough for this Issue.

Forty (40) papers are in various stages of review and revision.

6.2. *Special issues (SIs)*

6.2.1. *Drought Management and Policy (Andrew Ash)*

Andrew Ash has met with Jackie Wilcox to set deadlines mid-end July for submission of manuscripts. Thirteen (13) papers promised but likely to be 10 papers submitted. One paper (Curran) has been received. Referees will be approached by the Guest Editors.

Payment of \$11,000 (incl GST has been received).

6.2.3. Ecological Degradation and Regeneration of Grasslands – China (Paul Novelly)

Uffe Nielsen has received one paper to date, with remainder not expected until September. Communication with the Chinese Editors continues to be difficult.

Action: Paul Novelly to request advice from his contact about invoicing arrangements.

6.2.4. Special Issue from ARS 2019 Canberra (Paul Novelly)

Sixteen (16 papers are destined for the ARS2019 Conference SI, with all but one submitted. Two papers have been accepted, 13 are in process, and one further paper required for the SI is being pursued. This issue is likely to be Volume 42, either Issue 5 or 6.

Payment of \$11,000 has been received from ACIAR. This will allow the whole issue to be published as OA (cost \$10,000).

6.3 Virtual Issue (VI) – 30th anniversary of Westoby et al. (Andrew Ash)

Has been released – no further action.

6.4 Strategic Plan – review of Journal

Comments on the first draft (prepared by Marisa Spiniello) have been provided back to Marisa. We are waiting on a response.

The TRJ Annual Report from CSIRO-P has been provided and circulated to PC members. The two-year IF (Impact Factor) has gone up from 1.02 to 1.09, and the five-year IF has gone down from 1.6 to 1.3.

The current situation raises the question about whether we can stay with 6 issues per volume or reduce to four issues per volume. To assist in decision making, Andrew Ash is reviewing past volumes for trends in topic areas, authors' affiliations and demographics.

Action: Andrew to circulate his review to PC members when completed.

7. Range Management Newsletter (RMN)

7.1. Report from Editor (Noelene Duckett)

Noelene Duckett reported verbally.

Noelene is still having website problems, with on-going poor response from Blue Platypus (see further comments below). Material is required for RMN 20/2 which is due out in July 2020.

Action: Noelene to send an email to all members requesting material for RMN 20/2.

8. Social Media

8.1. Report from Social Media Editor (Sarah Moles)

Sarah provided the attached report (Attachment 1). Boosting of posts is proving to be very successful with a huge response to Anita Chang's paper and a paper by Magali Valenta published in Issue 1 Vol 42 of TRJ. All other metrics are doing well.

Action: Daryl suggested that a Linked In profile for the ARS would be useful and will send a link to Sarah.

8.2. *Implementation of recommendations from the strategic review*

Action: Sarah to review progress to date and advise Andrew what else needs to be done.

8.3. *Draft Wikipedia entry for ARS*

An entry has been completed by Ron Hacker. Some additional text and numbers describing the Australian rangelands is required.

Action: Don to add some detail into the description of the rangelands, based on material in Foran *et al.* (2019).

Action: Noelene to oversee loading of Wikipedia entry about the ARS.

9. **ARS web site**

9.1. *Report from Editor*

Russell Grant provided a verbal report.

The website does seem to be reasonably robust, with work in progress to load conference proceedings and photos. It is noted that the ARS2029 Canberra Conference did not require authors to submit papers, and it is suggested that the proceedings for the up-coming Longreach Conference need to include full papers for presentations and abstracts for posters. Further, the nature of copyright for conference papers that are reproduced as journal papers needs to be clarified.

Action: Advise Council that the proceedings for the up-coming Longreach Conference need to include full papers for presentations and abstracts for posters.

Action: Paul Novelty to clarify with Marisa Spiniello the nature of copyright for conference papers that are reproduced as journal papers.

9.2. *Progress/ difficulties with the new site*

Problems continue with site functionality, with only limited support from Blue Platypus. Rod Campbell has provided helpful advice with membership management. Members need to be advised about access to the Journal. Russell and others will be working with Rod Campbell in Dubbo to learn more about Wordpress – a meeting is planned for 11.30 am 9 July in Dubbo.

Action: Don to send email to members advising how they can access the Journal archive.

Action: Russell Grant, Noelene Duckett and Don Burnside will work with Rod Campbell in developing skills in website management.

10. **General Business**

Nil.

11. **Date of future meetings**

2 September;
18 November.

Meeting closed at 7.15 pm.

Attachment 1

Social media report 13 May - 30 June 2020

Twitter

We have 2 new followers with large followings of their own (which means many people see their retweets of our posts).

Facebook

Like and Love are by far the most widely used on our posts. Comments have been mostly people tagging friends, NRM organisations.

Boosted post re Anita Chang's first paper publication – targeted at people aged 18-65 in Australia, Canada, USA, Brazil interested in Science, Ecotourism, Sustainability, Nature, Tourism, Agriculture or Environmentalism, Education Level: At university and Industry: Life, physical and social sciences, Farming, fishing and forestry or Government employees (global) (feedback on future audiences welcome!)

Boosted post re Virtual TRJ edition - targeted at people aged 18-65 in Australia, Canada, USA, Argentina interested in Science, Ecotourism, Sustainability, Nature, Tourism, Agriculture or Environmentalism, Education Level: At university and Industry: Life, physical and social sciences, Farming, fishing and forestry or Government employees (global)

Figures in table below are as at 30/06/20

Objectives	Key Performance Indicators		
	Facebook	Twitter	Instagram
Objective 1: Provide current information relevant to the use and management of Australian rangelands. Pillar B: 'Helpful and educational resources'	Reach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of posts - 23 Followers = 1,121 Fans reached - <28 days= 48,950 Total reach since last report 63,870 	Reach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of tweets (not including re-tweets) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 9 June 14 New followers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May - 15 June – 1 Top new follower @p_hannam (SMH journalist) with 20.1k followers TOTAL followers at 30/6//20 = 1,336 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impressions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May - 17,800 June – 10,600 	Growth in community following 281 followers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of posts 1 (total 6 likes)

<p>Objective 2: Facilitate engagement and interaction on rangeland issues. Pillar C: Fun, relevant and inspiring content</p>	<p>Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments - 137 • Shares – 110 • Likes – 10,689 • Sentiment -Overwhelmingly 'Likes' and 'loves' A huge number of emoticons and gifs in response to Anita Chang post. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retweets - 54 • Mentions – 28. • Profile visits: May = 92; June = 35; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retweets • Mentions
<p>Objective 3: Promote ARS as an organisation providing attractive benefits to members. Pillar A: 'ARS centric stories'</p>	<p>Sentiment Positive</p>	<p>Sentiment Hard to know!</p>	<p>Positive</p>