



The Australian Rangeland Society

GENERAL MEETING (ARS Meeting #211)

Thursday 30 September 2010 at 8.05 am
Bourke Multipurpose Centre, Bourke, NSW

MINUTES

52 people were present – see attachment.

The President, John Taylor, welcomed everyone to the meeting,

1. Apologies

Peter Marin

2. Minutes of General Meeting (Meeting #197) held 2 October 2008 at the 15th Biennial Conference, Bourke, NSW.

The Minutes of Meeting #197 were distributed.

Corrections – On page 4 Western CMA was spelt incorrectly and Item 7 appeared twice. Don Burnside moved the acceptance of the Minutes with these corrections as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting. Seconded: Rory Treweeke. Carried.

3. Business arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising.

4. President's Report

The President spoke to his predecessor's report, presented at the Annual General Meeting in May 2010. This report was included in the Range Management Newsletter Vol x (2010).

The President introduced the other Council members present (Graeme Tupper, Annabel Walsh, Carolyn Ireland, Peter Johnston, Larissa Lauder and Kate Masters. He also acknowledged the volunteers – The Chair of the Publications Committee Ken Hodgkinson and members, The Editor-in-Chief of The Rangelands Journal Wal Whalley and Editorial Committee members, The Editor of the Range Management Newsletter Noelene Duckett (absent) and The Finance and Audit Officer Peter Marin (also absent).

The Society had 300 members in the last financial year with 73 expired memberships. Membership has been relatively stable since 2002 with a rise in conference years and a decline in non-conference years. There have been ongoing problems with contacting members and the President asked all members present to make sure that their details were current with Membership Manager Graeme Tupper.

The financial position of the Society is strong with retained profits of \$315,216 for the 2009 financial year up from \$297,264 in 2008.

During the year Council awarded one travel grant to Neil McLeod. The President encouraged members to consider applying for grants for this financial year. Application information is in the newsletter.

The President reported that Council has had a very active year considering such wide-ranging issues as new fellows of the society, guidelines for the biennial conference, corporate governance issues and the proposal for the Global Rangeland Repository. He also reported that the Society's website has been completely upgraded and refreshed by Ken Hodgkinson and he thanked Ken for his time and persistence.

In Question Time, Don Burnside asked what the running costs of the Society were and the President replied that these were minimal and figures, if required, could be obtained from the Finance and Audit Officer, Peter Marin.

Daryl Green asked why the retained profits were so high. The President replied that Council had benefitted from a contract with the Murray Darling Basin Authority (including a special issue of TRJ) and also that a lot of the sponsorship for the 2010 Bourke Conference was received during the 2009 financial year.

Nan Bray enquired about expired membership. Graeme Tupper replied that this was mostly due to members not updating their details.

5. Publications Update

Ken Hodgkinson provided an update on the Society's publications and reported the following:

There have been significant updates and changes to the website, the newsletter and the journal and thanks were due to Editors Wal Whalley and Noelene Duckett, Chris Anderson of CSIRO Publishing and all the Associate Editors of TRJ.

The Website is now more exciting and useful but underdeveloped. The website can represent the National Rangeland Community but it desperately needs a website manager.

The RMN is now published on the website and in hard cover. Further developments are planned with a new look and new material. There will also be an electronic archive of the RMN and Conference Proceedings on the Website.

The Rangeland Journal has risen from an impact factor of 0.5 to 1.2. It is a consistently high quality publication with high quality papers. There have been recent special issues from the Desert Knowledge CRC and Murray Darling Basin Authority. There were no questions about Publications.

6. CSIRO Publishing – Chris Anderson

The Rangeland Journal now has an Impact Factor of 1.162. It contains internationally relevant research and has produced prestigious special issues. The task is to internationalize the papers and thus add value to members. CSIRO Publishing proposes to the Society that a target be set of 6 issues per year which would entail handling about 120 papers submitted each year. This would increase the use of its content and hopefully raise the impact factor to 2.0. This will in turn attract a broader international readership and increase revenues.

7. Global Rangeland Repository

In 2009 a collaboration of US Universities (UA, UC-D, UI) undertook to develop a proposal to the USDA to improve access to Rangeland information resources on the web. Key steps proposed were as follows:

- Enhance an existing extension portal “Rangelands West” (University of Arizona)
- Engage the Society for Range Management, the Food and Agriculture Organisation, the Grasslands Society of Southern Africa and the Australian Rangeland Society in the first instance
- Develop two multi-media learning modules:
 - Rangelands of the World
 - Rangelands of Australia
- Identify and create a synthesis document and a customized research interface.

Benefits would be a one stop web resource. Funding has now been granted the USDA. Council has sought advice from the Publications Committee and members’ views are sought through one of the Directors of the ARS, Secretary Carolyn Ireland. Council’s and the Publications Committee’s first thoughts are to place the Range Management Newsletter, Conference Proceedings and Abstracts of Journal articles on this system if funding is available to convert all these documents to electronic versions. The President encouraged feedback from members, and that this be directed to Secretary Ireland. There were no questions from members present.

8. New Fellows

Council has been working hard on finalizing new Guidelines for the award of Fellow of the Society. The rank of Fellow can be awarded to those who make a significant contribution both to the Society and to rangeland management over a period of many years. A special General Meeting was held earlier this year to raise the proportion of members who can be made Fellows from 2% to 4% of membership.

The new guidelines will be placed on the website and in the RMN. Six financial members must endorse a proposal of not more than 750 words to propose a new

Fellow of the Society. Council urges members to submit proposals by the end of February 2011 in time for the March meeting of Council.

9. WA Proposal for the 17th Biennial Conference – Don Burnside

In addressing this item, Don Burnside gave his personal thanks to the organizing committee of the Bourke Conference. He announced that the 17th Biennial Conference of the Australian Rangeland Society will be held in Kununurra, Western Australia in September 2012. The theme will be “Celebrating Diversity in Place, People and Purpose”. He outlined a brief proposal for the Kimberley Conference and guaranteed that delegates would be warm!

The Organizing Committee will consist of Paul Novelly (Chair), Don Burnside, Jennifer Duffecy, Trevor Howard, Alec Holm, Sandra van Vreeswyck, Troy Sinclair, Pauline Grierson, Peter Landman and Tony Brandis. The Committee recognizes that local presence on the ground is essential and they are working on this aspect.

10. Ode to Richard Walter Condon OAM – Daryl Green

Daryl Green presented the ode to Richard Condon

11. Internation Rangelands Congress, Rosario, Argentina 2-8 April 2011 – Gabriel Oliva

Dr Gabriel Oliva presented a video about the IRC and said that more information was available at www.irc2011.com.ar

12. General Business

The President announced that anyone wishing to nominate a producer to receive a free membership to the Society should send their nomination to Graeme Tupper or Carolyn Ireland.

13. Close of meeting

The meeting was closed at 8.59 am.