



# The Australian Rangeland Society

## Council Meeting No. 260 Minutes

**Time:** 5.10pm (QLD Time); **Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017 by Teleconference

1. **Present:** David Phelps, Don Burnside, Andrew Ash, Dionne Walsh & Bob Shepherd and Megan Munchenberg at 5.55pm.

**Apologies:** Angus Whyte & Cathy Waters

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting:**

**Motion:** That the minutes of Council Meeting No. 258 on the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017 held by teleconference were approved.

**Moved:** Bob Shepherd

**Seconded:** Don Burnside

**Carried**

**Note:** the minutes of the general meeting held at the Port Augusta ARS Conference will be presented for approval at the next ARS Conference in Canberra in 2019.

3. **Business arising from the minutes:**

- A. **Strategic Plan** - David & Don to add additional information to Bob's notes which were emailed 21<sup>st</sup> May 2017
- B. **Strategic Plan Scenarios** to be emailed to ARS Council members initially for input, then to PC members for input.
- C. **Strategic Plan Scenarios** with supporting documentation to be sent to all members prior to Port Augusta ARS Conference

**Note:** Items A, B & C were dealt with as one and included correspondence items 34, 45 & 48 relating to the development of the ARS Strategic Plan, plus item 2 (the Range Management Newsletter) from the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017 Publications Committee report.

- Council was in agreement with the content, intent and targets as presented in the Conceptual Diagram that was developed by the ARS President David Phelps
- Suggested that targets be achieved over five years, while the comments in the bubbles be aspirational
- Feedback on Range Management Newsletter (RMN) as provided by Ron Hacker was discussed but Recommendation 3 was not put or voted on.
- Expanding the appeal & relevance of the ARS – comment provided by Megan Munchenberg:-
  - Need to engage landholders (graziers) and NRM group staff
  - NRM group staff engagement with ARS needs to also come from their (NRM group) need as well
  - Temporary employment and reduced funding of NRM groups outside the Reef Catchments is an impediment to engagement
  - Change is occurring due to the involvement of the Rangelands Alliance
  - The Rangeland Journal content is a bit heavy for graziers
  - Consider associate membership for graziers eg to access the RMN
  - Need to decide who our target audience is; if it is graziers, we need to change our focus
- Discussion on the idea of offering subscriptions at a reduced rate eg \$20/annum for an RMN subscription with e-copies older than two editions be provided free.

**Note:** this was the item being discussed when the WebEx line dropped out and could not easily be re-established.

- D. Younger Members Forum** on the Monday of the Port Augusta ARS Conference (Don B & Bob S to continue to progress)
- Younger members were contacted, but insufficient numbers were available to hold a forum. John Taylor's event for early stage professionals was very successful, but most attendees were not ARS members. It was resolved that this event be recommended to the organizing committee to be repeated at the 2019 ARS conference in Canberra, and to include a short section on what young people need from the ARS.
- E. On-line daily newsletters "Beef Central" & "Sheep Central"** for ARS conference promotion Don to pass this information to the organising committee
- This information was forwarded to the Conference Organising Committee.
  - After the RMN is discussed and finalized by the ARS Council, details of Beef Central & Sheep Central are to be sent to Noelene Duckett as a potential outlet for ARS issues and media. Don to action.
- F. IRC 2024** – form an organising committee in early 2018 to progress the bid
- Most ARS council members have heavy workloads, therefore most council members will struggle to drive the formation of an organising committee to develop a bid for the 2024 IRC
  - The organising committee for the 1999 Townsville IRC included only one ARS Council member (Ron Hacker)
  - The amount of spare time and flexibility in work duties that fulltime staff have these days, is greatly reduced
  - Need to get others involved
  - Possible sources of seed funding were discussed, including:
    - IRC Continuing Committee
    - Adelaide Convention Centre coordinating funds (only available once the conference has been approved by the IRC Continuing Committee and an organising committee has been established)
  - Guidelines for hosting an IRC are contained in the Continuing Committee Constitution (Don to send copy to Council members)
  - David to follow-up with Continuing Committee Chair Dana Kelly to ascertain dates for IRC bids and associated details.
  - Social media may provide an avenue to enlist an organising committee – secretary to send details to Social Media Editor Jodie Ward when available, by the end of January.
- G. Adelaide Convention Centre** - brief report and circulate to ARS Council members (David to write)
- No progress – item to remain on the agenda
- H. International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists (IYR&P)**- need to **engage additional Australian Gov't departments** eg Trade & Investment and Environment (Dana Kelly, lead of the Australian sub-committee to progress)
- David Phelps is a member on the IYR&P Steering Committee member (compliments of Jim O'Rourke USA)
  - UN met in November, but the paperwork didn't make it to the meeting (administrative delay in Kenya)
  - The bid needs the support of more countries
  - A proposal for an International Decade of Family Farms (IDFF) is gaining traction. There will be an observer from the IYR&P on the IDFF committee.
  - Dana Kelly succeeded in getting pastoralists and pastoral farmers included in the IDFF
- I. International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists – Australian committee** to encourage the Australian Government to support the Kenyan submission to the UN
- The Australian Government supported the International Year of Plant Health, but abstained from voting on the IYR&P
- J. New ARS Fellow nominee**
- check guidelines (Bob to do)
  - case to be developed using information gathered by Cathy Waters, Don Burnside & Paul Jones

- Don to send guidelines to Bob
  - Paul Jones (DAFQ Emerald) to be asked to develop a nomination in conjunction with Cathy Waters & Don Burnside
- K. Other categories of award** eg honour board – discuss at next meeting
- No progress – item to remain on the agenda
- L. Publications Committee** - new members Ann Waters-Bayer & Jenny Silcock – letters to be written (Bob to do)
- Letters were written and sent by David Phelps
  - Secretary to obtain copies from David Phelps
- M. RMN** – Peter O'Reagain's SRM report to go into newsletter (Bob to action)
- Done
- N. Accounts** to be capable of delineating ARS conference costs from general ARS expenditure (Don to arrange)
- Done
- O. Discussions** to be held with the **CSIRO style editor** during the annual meeting with CSIRO Publishing about English standards of some authors (David Phelps/Ron Hacker to action)
- Done
- P. Example of a special edition proposal** to be circulated to Council and the PC by Don Burnside
- Sent out by Don during the meeting
  - Done
- Q. Role Statements for Publications Committee Members** to be developed and ratified by the 2018 ARS AGM (Bob, Don, Ron and David to review current PC role statements for consistency with Council positions)
- To be done by end of February 2018
  - Obtain ratified versions for updating so that they align with current ARS Council member role statements

#### 4. Correspondence

##### Inwards Correspondence

1	27-Jul-17	Email	Don Burnside	Email trail regarding MLA sponsorship for the Conference - ammunition for David Phelps and Bob Shepherd to tackle MLA
2	27-Jul-17	Email	Don Burnside	Suggestions from ARS Council for further promotion of the Conference
3	27-Jul-17	Email	Don Burnside	ARS Conference contact details on email sent to ARS members
4	01-Aug17	Email	Gus Whyte	Rangelands Centre of Excellence
5	03-Aug17	Email	Don Burnside	ARS Executive Strategic Planning Meeting May2017
6	03-Aug17	Email	Don Burnside	ARS Insurance
7	04-Aug17	Email	Jocelyn Davies	Social Media Editor role
8	06-Aug17	Email	David Phelps	ARS Banner
9	11-Aug17	Email	David Phelps	Technology use in conservation - survey
10	12-Aug17	Email	Cathy Waters	Canberra ARC 2019
11	12-Aug17	Email	Lisa	Australian Rangeland Society Conference Port Augusta PIRSA
12	12-Aug17	Email	Don Burnside	Canberra ARC 2019
13	26-Aug17	Email	Bob Shepherd	Australian Rangeland Society Conference Port Augusta September 2017 PIRSA Sponsorship
14	26-Aug17	Email	Ron Hacker	Address for ARS in Global Rangelands site
15	26-Aug17	Email	Bob Shepherd	Contact from CCT website
16	03-Sep17	Email	Bob Shepherd	ARS Council Meeting #258 Minutes

17	03-Sep17	Email	Bob Shepherd	Strategic Planning Documents (2017)
18	04-Sep17	Email	Cathy Waters	ARS Council Meeting Strategic Planning Docs
19	04-Sep17	Email	Megan Munchenberg	ARS Council Meeting Strategic Planning Docs
20	04-Sep17	Email	John Taylor	ARS Council Meeting Strategic Planning Docs
21	04-Sep17	Email	John Taylor	ARS Conference 2015 - Survey results, Organizing Cttee Meeting Minutes, PCO Report and Reflections of Program, Sponsorship and Social Coordinators
22	10-Sep17	Email	Don Burnside	Presentation of Fellowships to Margaret Friedel and Ron Hacker
23	10-Sep17	Email	Megan Munchenberg	ARS Council strategic discussion
24	18-Sep17	Email	Ron Hacker	Quick question - Cherie editorial access to the ARS social media accounts
25	19-Sep17	Email	Matt Rahr	Contact from CCT website
26	20-Sep17	Email	Don Burnside	An alternative view about feral animals in the outback (and other places)
27	20-Sep17	Email	Don Burnside	PC email addresses
28	20-Sep17	Email	Don Burnside	2015 Survey conducted at Alice Springs Conference
29	20-Sep17	Email	Don Burnside	Updated version of background information - includes 2015 survey data
30	21-Sep17	Email	Don Burnside	Alternative view on feral animals
31	03-Oct17	Email	Don Burnside	ARS Conference delegate survey & membership
32	03-Oct17	Tweet	Anika Molesworth	"Climate Wise Agriculture in the Arid Zone" Conference (early 2018) Speaker suggestions from ARS conf
33	04-Oct17	Email	Ron Hacker	Social media editor – Jodie Ward
34	05-Oct17	Email	David Phelps	ARS strategic planning meeting SAAL office Pt Augusta 29th September 2017 – Action List
35	05-Oct17	Email	Ron Hacker	Additional support for RMN editor if format changes
36	05-Oct17	Email	David Phelps	Survey Monkey post-ARS Conf Port Augusta
37	05-Oct17	Email	Don Burnside	Invitation to Join ARS – to all members
38	06-Oct17	Email	Don Burnside	New complimentary members - student presenters at the conference
39	15-Oct17	Email	David Phelps	Appointment of Jodie Ward as Social Media Editor supported by Council
40	19-Oct17	Email	Ron Hacker	Appointment email to Jodie Ward as Social Media Editor
41	28-Oct17	Email	Ron Hacker	Jodie Ward Social Media Editor commencement date 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
42	30-Oct17	Email	David Phelps	Jodie Ward Social Media Editor commencement date 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2017 & Role Statements
43	01-Nov17	Email	Publisher Operations WIT (Lianna Brewer)	Membership inquiry from Alabama USA
44	13-Nov17	Email	Don Burnside	Complimentary membership for Jodie Ward as SME
45	13-Nov17	Email	David Phelps	ARS Conceptual Diagram
46	14-Nov17	Email	Noelene Duckett	Contributions to November edition of RMN
47	14-Nov17	Email	Ron Hacker	ARS Conceptual Diagram (Feedback)
48	13-Nov17	Email	David Phelps/Kate Forrest	Outback Alliance - Australian Rangeland Society involvement
49	15 & 16-Nov17	Emails	Andrew Ash/Gus Whyte/Cathy Waters	Outback Alliance - Australian Rangeland Society involvement
50	22-Nov17	Email	Don Burnside/Peter Marin	Financial outcome Port Augusta ARS Conference
51	24-Nov17	Email	Don Burnside/Noelene Duckett	Membership details for November edition of RMN
52	29-Nov17	Email	Ron Hacker	Publications Committee Report for Dec 2017 ARS Council meeting
53	02-Dec17	Email	Don Burnside /Lianna Brewer	Membership Inquiry Request No.: WIT 746373 - EBSCO Communication: 914586
54	02-Dec17	Email	Jocelyn Davies/Don	Expired membership

			Burnside	
55	03-Dec17	Email	Gus Whyte	Rangelands Meeting with MLA program managers
56	05-Dec17	Email	Don Burnside	Membership report
57	06-Dec17	Email	Gus Whyte	Apology & feedback on strategic plan
58	06-Dec17	Email	Don Burnside	Financial report

Motion: That the inwards correspondence be received & outwards endorsed (list as per above).

**Moved:** Don Burnside

**Seconded:** Dionne Walsh

**Carried**

## 5. Business Arising from Correspondence

- Speakers for the Climate Wise Agriculture in the Arid Zone conference (Anika Molesworth) – Don sent a list of suggested speakers (item 32)
- ARS Strategic Plan (items 34, 45 & 48) – see notes under Business from Minutes (items A, B & C)
- Membership enquiry from Lianna Brewer Publisher Operations WIT Alabama USA – hopefully resolved
- Rangelands meeting with MLA program managers (Gus Whyte) – content noted (item 55)

## 6. Reports

### 6.1 Finance Report (Don)

#### **Overall financial situation as at 30 November 2017**

Our overall financial situation is shown in the table below, with a separate report from Peter Marin, Treasurer, Port Augusta Conference. Currently we have \$144,881 in the four bank accounts, with some known outstanding income and payments, and some modest conference payments still to be made. However, our situation is favourable compared to this time last year, largely as a result of a higher than expected profit from the Port Augusta Conference.

#### **Normal income and outgo**

Our normal operations income to 30 November 2017 is \$27,931, comprising mainly membership income. Before the end of the year we should also receive \$10,000 in payment for the *Restore, Revegetate, Regenerate* Special Issue of the Journal.

Our normal operations outgo to 30 November 2017 is \$52,488. The major cost items are journal publication (\$29,091), and payments to date for honoraria (\$9,250) and website and social media services (\$5,557). Payments due before the end of the year include further honoraria (\$8,000).

#### **Conference income and outgo**

Total conference income to date is \$210,144 (excl GST), with expenses of \$138,835 (including \$10,000 for the special issue of the Journal from the Conference). There is still some income and costs to be settled, with the likely profit being \$58,000 (excl GST). This is well above the budgeted figure of \$20,000.

Reasons for the higher than expected profit include realistic budgeting (registrations reached the target number), sponsorship being higher than expected, and the fact that although the registration costs were the same as for the 2015 conference, the conference was a day shorter than previous events. Council should acknowledge the efforts of the Organising Committee for this great result, in particular John Gavin (Chair), Peter Marin (Treasurer), Kate Forrest (Chair, Sponsorship Sub-Committee) and Lisa Pearson (PCO).

#### **Likely outcome for financial year ending 31 December 2017**

Given known income and payments to be made before the end of the year, it is estimated that we will have about \$125,000 on hand at that time. That will be a significant improvement over the situation at the end of 2016, when funds available were \$86,034.

INCOME	Actual Jan 1 to Nov 30 (GST excl)		Comments
	Ordinary operating	Conference	
Total ARS Membership Income	\$26,864		some 2017 memberships paid before 1 Jan 2017. Total of 2017 memberships = \$19,695. \$4,603 paid in advance for 2018 and 2019 memberships. \$264 paid for 2018 memberships
Total Conference income		\$210,144	\$79,800 sponsorship, \$137,475 registration. Note some sponsorship received before 1 Jan 2017. GST liability of \$7,131 taken off
Journal income (special issues and CSIRO dividends)	\$12,520		Includes \$10,000 for Conference special issue. Expect to receive \$10,000 for RRR issue, due out January 2018.
Copyright Income			
Interest income	\$427		
GST Refund	\$1,259		
Miscellaneous income	\$2,014		\$2,000 refund paid by Graeme Tupper for project unable to be completed
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$43,084</b>	<b>\$210,144</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Bank service charges	\$1,523		Mainly related to conference registrations. Need to transfer conference proportion to conference account
Stamp duty	\$127		
Postage and delivery	\$113		
Printing and reproduction			
Professional fees	\$1,440		
Membership management	\$2,800		Includes Subscription Manager 2016 honorarium
Marketing and promotion (website, travel grants, social media support)	\$8,421		includes \$2,380 for website maintenance/ development, \$1,500 for website manager 2016 honorarium, \$1,364 for travel grant, \$1,062 for social media support (Wright), \$2,115 for social media editor (Marshall). Need to pay 2017 honorarium to Website manager (\$1,500)
Conference expenses		\$138,835	still some costs to come in (estimated \$12,403).
Journal expenses	\$29,091		two payments to CSIRO (\$14,545). Need to include EiC honorarium (\$4000)
Newsletter costs			need to pay Editor honorarium (\$3500)
Council costs	\$3,677		mainly Chorus Call. Webex is reducing this item.
Corporate costs	\$47		ASIC fees
Honoraria (Publications Chair, Book keeper)	\$5,250		Ron Hacker - Publications Chair, Don Heylen - book keeper
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$52,488</b>	<b>\$138,835</b>	
<b>PROFIT/ LOSS</b>	<b>-\$9,404</b>	<b>\$71,309</b>	Estimated conference profit will be \$58,000 (excl GST)

Balance of Accounts at 30 November 2017	Actual	Outstanding accounts receivable and payable	
Operating Cheque Account 8347	\$301	Income not yet banked	
Conference Account 8363	\$80,845	Current liabilities not yet paid (not conference expenses)	\$9,000.00
Savings Account 8721	\$63,126	Tax payable	

Membership Account 3504	\$608		
Petty cash conference			
<b>Total cash</b>	<b>\$144,881</b>	<b>Net cash assets</b>	<b>\$135,880</b>

**Discussions from financial report:-**

- Costs savings - TRJ publishing costs are down  
- Teleconference costs (WebEx) are down
- Travel/study grants/awards can now be offered in full; no applications have been received for this meeting

**ARS Conference Port Augusta financial report:-**

<b>ARS Events Budget</b>						
<b>Event:</b>						
<b>Date:</b>		<b>Expected budget</b>		<b>Running actuals</b>		<b>Variance</b>
<b>Income</b>						
<i>Registrations</i>	Rate	#	Total	#	Total	
Early Bird Member	\$700.00	50	\$35,000.00	81	\$56,700.00	\$21,700.00
Early Bird Non-Member	\$800.00	50	\$40,000.00	27	\$21,600.00	\$(18,400.00)
Full Member	\$800.00	30	\$24,000.00	16	\$12,800.00	\$(11,200.00)
Full Non-Member	\$900.00	30	\$27,000.00	31	\$27,900.00	\$900.00
Students	\$500.00	10	\$5,000.00	8	\$4,000.00	\$(1,000.00)
Field Trip supplement (Roxby Downs)	\$100.00	25	\$2,500.00	25	\$2,500.00	-
Day Registration (per day)	\$300.00	20	\$6,000.00	16	\$4,800.00	\$(1,200.00)
Gala Dinner	\$110.00	20	\$2,200.00	6	\$660.00	\$(1,540.00)
Accompanying	\$300.00	10	\$3,000.00	9	\$2,700.00	\$(300.00)
Complimentary - sponsors/speakers	-	20	-	23	-	-
Other - Booth					\$2,900.00	\$2,900.00
Other - BBQ				12	\$490.00	\$490.00
Monies kept from Refunds					\$370.00	\$370.00
Coach				1	\$55.00	\$55.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>265</b>	<b>\$144,700.00</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>\$137,475.00</b>	<b>\$(7,225.00)</b>
Sponsorship Sought			\$65,000.00			
Platinum			-		-	
Gold			-		-	
Silver			-		-	
Other (refer to table)			-		\$79,800.00	
Total sponsorship confirmed			-		\$79,800.00	\$14,800.00
<i>Other</i>			-		-	
<b>Total Income</b>			<b>\$209,700.00</b>		<b>\$217,275.00</b>	<b>\$7,575.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
<i>Variable</i>						
Catering: lunch, am/pm teas (15+10+10 per day)	\$70.00	220	\$15,400.00		\$12,967.50	\$2,432.50
Mayoral reception	\$5,500.00	1	\$5,500.00		\$2,168.05	\$3,331.95
Barbecue (25F+10E)	\$35.00	210	\$7,350.00		\$7,097.80	\$252.20

Conference dinner (35F+14B+14E)	\$63.00	210	\$13,230.00		\$10,693.26	\$2,536.74
Field Trips (90% participating)	\$100.00	187	\$18,700.00		\$7,740.00	\$10,960.00
Roxby Downs supplement	\$100.00	25	\$2,500.00		\$2,968.00	-\$468.00
Delegate bags, inserts, notepads, USB etc	\$45.00	210	\$9,450.00		\$6,005.66	\$3,444.34
Printing, photocopying etc	\$25.00	210	\$5,250.00		\$4,925.73	\$324.27
Total Variable			\$77,380.00		\$54,566.00	\$22,814.00
<i>Fixed</i>						
Venue hire	\$1,200.00	1	\$1,200.00		\$100.00	\$1,100.00
Display services (poster boards, furniture)	\$3,500.00	1	\$3,500.00			\$3,500.00
Online portal: reg, abstracts & attendee app	\$4,400.00	1	\$4,400.00		\$3,398.64	\$1,001.36
Audio visual hire	\$10,330.00	1	\$10,330.00		\$8,001.95	\$2,328.05
Keynote speaker fees and gifts	\$25.00	16	\$400.00		\$846.26	-\$446.26
Speaker travel costs	\$1,000.00	6	\$6,000.00		\$120.00	\$5,880.00
Volunteer appreciation	\$10.00	12	\$120.00			\$120.00
Shuttle bus - Port Augusta local	\$1,400.00	1	\$1,400.00		\$3,400.00	-\$2,000.00
Graphic design / signage	\$3,500.00	1	\$3,500.00		\$1,254.75	\$2,245.25
Promotion	\$3,500.00	1	\$3,500.00		\$2,470.75	\$1,029.25
Journal Special Edition	\$10,000.00	1	\$10,000.00		\$11,000.00	-\$1,000.00
Insurance	\$6,000.00	1	\$6,000.00		\$1,391.50	\$4,608.50
Security, cleaning, labour hire	\$800.00	1	\$800.00			\$800.00
PCO fees	\$57,030.00	1	\$57,030.00		\$51,040.00	\$5,990.00
Merchant Fees & Bank Charges	\$3,000.00		\$3,000.00		\$1,245.20	\$1,754.80
Total Fixed			\$111,180.00		\$84,269.05	\$26,910.95
<b>Total Expenses</b>			<b>\$188,560.00</b>		<b>\$138,835.05</b>	<b>\$49,724.95</b>
<b>Surplus before GST liability</b>			<b>\$ 21,140.00</b>		<b>\$ 78,439.95</b>	
Less GST liability			\$1,921.82		\$7,130.90	
<b>Surplus net of GST</b>			<b>\$19,218.18</b>		<b>\$71,309.05</b>	
F is Food B is Beverage E is Entertainment						

<b>Sponsorship Funding Table</b>							
<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>	<b>GST (\$)</b>	<b>Total (\$)</b>	<b>Date Invoiced</b>	<b>Date Received</b>	<b>Inv No.</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Outback Communities Authority	4,545.45	454.55	5,000.00	31-May-16	10-Jun-16	Conf50	
NSW Dept of Primary Industries	4,818.18	481.82	5,300.00	29-Nov-16	19-Jan-17	Conf51	Cathy Waters
S. Kidman and Co.	3,000.00	300.00	3,300.00	01-Apr-17	14-Apr-17	Conf52	
Outback Communities Authority	5,000.00	500.00	5,500.00	01-Apr-17	28-Apr-17	Conf53	



Rangelands NRM Allaince	9,090.91	909.09	10,000.00	11-May-17	19-May-17	Conf54	
MLCS Corporate	1,000.00	100.00	1,100.00	12-May-17	19-May-17	Conf55	
Oz Minerals	9,090.91	909.09	10,000.00	21-Jun-17	13-Jul-17	Conf56	
Geo Carbon Services (Green Collar)	5,000.00	500.00	5,500.00	03-Aug-17	13-Sep-17	Conf59	
CSIRO	5,000.00	500.00	5,500.00	03-Aug-17	10-Oct-17	Conf60	
AWI & Sheep Conenct SA	5,000.00	500.00	5,500.00	27-Aug-17	15-Sep-17	Conf63	
PIRSA	5,000.00	500.00	5,500.00	28-Aug-17	15-Sep-17	Conf64	
DEWNR	10,000.00	1,000.00	11,000.00	01-Sep-17	27-Sep-17	Conf65	
Bush Heritage	5,000.00	500.00	5,500.00	04-Sep-17	21-Sep-17	Conf68	
Spencer Gulf Cities	1,000.00	100.00	1,100.00	18-Sep-17	26-Sep-17	Conf72	
<b>Sponsorship Total</b>	<b>72,545.45</b>	<b>7,254.55</b>	<b>79,800.00</b>				
<b>Other Invoices</b>							
Local Land Services	8,181.82	818.18	9,000.00	29-Jun-17	28-Jul-17	Conf57	For payment of 10 Full Non-member registrations
Natural Resources SA Arid Lands	12,727.27	1,272.73	14,000.00	13-Jul-17	16-Aug-17	Conf58	For payment of 20 early bird member registrations
Department of the Environment and Energy	818.18	81.82	900.00	07-Aug-17	11-Aug-17	Conf61	Full Non-Member registration for Margot Sharp
Department of the Environment and Energy	645.46	64.54	710.00	14-Sep-17	21-Sep-17	Conf69	2 x Day Registrations and Dinner Ticket for Keith Armstrong
AFAC	818.18	81.82	900.00	15-Sep-17	06-Oct-17	Conf70	Full Non-Member registration for Chris Morton
Andrew Nicolson	45.45	4.55	50.00	18-Sep-17		Conf73	2 x Networking BBQ tickets (at cost)
Oz Minerals	309.09	30.91	340.00	24-Sep-17	19-Oct-17	Conf75	Day registration and BBQ Ticket for Andrew Oswald
Oz Minerals	309.09	30.91	340.00	24-Sep-17	19-Oct-17	Conf76	Day registration and BBQ Ticket for Leighton Randell
Natural Resources SA Arid Lands	7,000.00	700.00	7,700.00	09-Oct-17	25-Oct-17	Conf77	For payment of 11 early bird member registrations
Dalrymple Landcare Committee	90.91	9.09	100.00	11-Oct-17	10-Nov-17	Conf78	Arid Land Recovery for Helene Aubault
Grazing Innovation	90.91	9.09	100.00	11-Oct-17	18-Oct-17	Conf79	Arid Land Recovery for Greg Brennan
University of Queensland	181.82	18.18	200.00	11-Oct-17	11-Oct-17	Conf80	2 x Arid Revovery Tickets - Jen Silcock
Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP	200.00	20.00	220.00	11-Oct-17	02-Nov-17	Conf81	2 x ARS Conference Dinner Tickets
Revell Science	50.00	5.00	55.00	11-Oct-17	13-Oct-17	Conf82	Coach Transfer Pt Augusta - Adelaide

LEB Advisory Committee	222.73	22.27	245.00	17-Oct-17	18-Oct-17	Conf83	8 members @ \$40 hd for BBQ Dinner on Teusday (paid cash to JG minus \$75 for flowers)
<b>Exhibition Booths</b>							
Wakelin Associates	454.55	45.45	500.00	22-Aug-17	22-Aug-17	Conf62	
RDA Far North	454.55	45.45	500.00	01-Sep-17	14-Sep-17	Conf66	
DAWR - LEB	454.55	45.45	500.00	01-Sep-17	27-Sep-17	Conf67	
AFAC	454.55	45.45	500.00	15-Sep-17	06-Oct-17	Conf70	
CO2	454.55	45.45	500.00	18-Sep-17	31-Oct-17	Conf71	
Uni of Qld, TERN	363.64	36.36	400.00	20-Sep-17	04-Dec-17	Conf74	
<b>Booth Total</b>	<b>\$2636.39</b>	<b>\$263.61</b>	<b>\$2,900.00</b>				

### Discussions from ARS Conference Port Augusta financial report:-

- The conference turned a good profit
- Excellent sponsorship support due to Kate Forrest's efforts
- Reduced speaker travel costs and field-trips costs
- Some costs are still to be paid
- Conference was one day shorter than previous conferences
- Credit to John Gavin, Kate Forrest, Peter Marin & Lisa Pearson in particular
- It was resolved that the secretary write a congratulatory and thank you letter to the Conference Organising Committee members, and after checking with John Gavin, thank you letters to the major sponsors.

Motion: That \$10,000 (GST excl) from the conference budget be identified as a journal cost for a special edition of TRJ.

**Moved:** Don Burnside

**Seconded:** Dionne Walsh

**Carried**

Motion: That the financial report and ARS Conference financial report be accepted and accounts passed for payment.

**Moved:** Don Burnside

**Seconded:** Megan Munchenberg

**Carried**

## 6.2 Membership Report (Don)

### Financial members

We have 193 members who are currently financial for the 2017 calendar year. This includes 21 people who opted for the three-year memberships and hence will not need to renew until the end of 2019. Although the number of current financial members is less than we would like, it compares favourably with the situation at the end of 2016, when we were down to 149 financial members. However, it is a far cry from the mid-1990s when we had over 450 financial members.

Category	Hardcopy Journal + RMN	E-journal + RMN	RMN only	Total
Paying members	138* (118**)	51* (46**)	31* (29**)	2220* (193**)
Complimentary***	5	39	0	44***
Institutional subscribers	11	79	0	90
<b>Total</b>	<b>154 (134)</b>	<b>169 (164)</b>	<b>31 (29)</b>	<b>354 (327)</b>

\* Total number of members to pay in 2017

\*\* Number already paid in 2017

\*\*\* There are 50 complimentary members, but 6 of these volunteered membership subs for 2017. One further person has volunteered to pay subs in 2018.

### Non-financial members

There are 27 people who were financial members in 2016, but have not renewed their memberships for calendar 2017. Unfortunately, they will be ‘cut adrift’ at the end of this year, but it will be easy enough for people in that category to rejoin as a new member. A note to that effect will be in the December 2017 RMN.

### Complimentary members

The 50 complimentary members include the Fellows of the Society, those people paid honoraria for services (Editor in Chief of *The Rangeland Journal*, Chair of the Publications Committee, website and social media editors), Associate Editors of the Journal, and members of the Organising Committee for the Port Augusta Conference. In addition, in recent years, complimentary one year memberships have been awarded as prizes at various conferences, including ARS Biennial Conferences. We hope that those students who received one year complimentary memberships (for 2017) at the IRC in Saskatoon, and at the *Restore, Revegetate, Regenerate* Conference in New England (for 2018) will convert to paid memberships. Similarly, the members of the conference Organising Committee will be invited to convert to paid memberships. A list of the complimentary members has been provided to Council members as a separate document.

### Institutional subscribers

Institutional subscribers to *The Rangeland Journal*, which include university libraries, major research institutions and the like are not members of ARS, and instead subscribe direct to CSIRO to receive the Journal. As can be seen, the trend is for distribution to occur electronically. The number of institutional subscribers has remained about the same for a few years, and growing this number is an objective. ARS receives a modest royalty from these subscriptions, and it does ensure the Journal reaches a very large number of people.

### Membership renewals

Those people whose paid or complimentary memberships expire on 31 December 2017 will be receiving renewal emails over the next few weeks. Three year memberships can again be a renewal option. Further, people who are over 65 years and retired from active employment can opt for concessional membership rates.

### Subscription rates for 2018

Given (i) the likely profit from the conference of \$50,000, and (ii) that subscription rates have been increased in both of the last two years, it is recommended that subscription rates be maintained at current levels for 2018. These rates are shown below.

Category	2018 subscriptions	
	Australia (incl GST)	International
<b>Standard</b>		
Hard copy Journal and e-RMN	\$145.00	\$180
Electronic Journal and e-RMN	\$110.00	\$110
Electronic RMN only	\$80.00	\$80
<b>Concessional*</b>		
Hard copy Journal and e-RMN	\$125.00	\$155
Electronic Journal and e-RMN	\$100.00	\$100
Electronic RMN only	\$70.00	\$70
<b>Company</b>		
Hard copy Journal and e-RMN	\$190.00	\$235
Electronic Journal and e-RMN	\$135.00	\$135
<b>Student</b>		
Hard copy Journal and e-RMN	\$110.00	\$140
Electronic Journal and e-RMN	\$80.00	\$80
Electronic RMN only	\$55.00	\$55

Three year subscription (2018-2020)	
Australia (incl GST)	International
<b>Standard</b>	
\$415	\$515
\$315	\$315
\$230	\$230
<b>Concessional*</b>	
\$355	\$440
\$285	\$285
\$200	\$200
<b>Company</b>	
\$540	\$670
\$385	\$385

### **Discussion from membership report:**

- Publisher Operations WIT (Lianna Brewer) - membership inquiry from Alabama USA; Don to follow-up
- Complimentary membership to be continued for student presentations at Rangeland Conferences
- The response from non-members attending the Port Augusta conference in becoming members post-conference was poor (only two people took up the offer).

Motion: That the membership rates be maintained at current levels for 2018.

**Moved:** Don Burnside

**Seconded:** Andrew Ash

**Carried**

Motion: That the membership report be accepted.

**Moved:** Don Burnside

**Seconded:** Megan Munchenberg

**Carried**

### **6.3 Publication Committee Report**

The Publications Committee (PC) met on 22 November 2017. The following matters are forwarded for Council's information and consideration.

#### **a) The Rangeland Journal**

The rate of submission to TRJ has recently increased with 10 manuscripts received to date in November. So far in 2017, 92 manuscripts have been received, independent of Special Issues. The total number of manuscripts in 2017, including special issues, should be close to the expected figure of approx. 125. Of the 92 'ordinary' manuscripts received to date only 15% are from Australia, emphasizing the dependence of TRJ on international contributions.

Issue 4 of 2017 has recently been distributed, bringing the total number of pages published in 2017 to 403 which is in line with the annual target of 600 published pages. Issues 5 and 6 will be special issues based on the 'Restore, Regenerate, Revegetate' conference and work on climate change adaptation of Mongolian grasslands. While the former is progressing well the latter has presented a significant challenge for the Australian Co-Guest Editor (Jocelyn Davies) in terms of both the science quality and the English expression. It is unlikely that either issue will be published in calendar 2017. Publication in early 2018 is most likely for both but they will be dated as 2017 issues.

The Special Issues planned for 2018 are 'Northern Agricultural Development' (co-editors Andrew Ash and Ian Watson) and 'Transition to Transformation' (the Special Issue from the 19<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference; co-editors Russell Smith and Martin Andrew). A draft contract for the former will be provided to CSIRO shortly. No contract is yet in place for any Special Issue in 2019 although some options are being explored including a volume based on the Wambiana project and a commemorative issue to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Westoby *et al.* 'state and transition' paper.

The draft publishing contract for 2018-22 has been returned from CSIRO Publishing and will be considered by Ron Hacker, Don Burnside and David Phelps in the near future.

The PC has considered proposals to appoint Prof. Graciela Metternicht and Dr Steven Bray as Associate Editors (AEs) of *The Rangeland Journal* and has supported both appointments. Supporting evidence is provided in Appendix 1.

**Recommendation 1:** That Council appoint Prof. Graciela Metternicht and Dr Steven Bray as Associate Editors of *The Rangeland Journal* on the usual terms and conditions and that the President advises each of their appointment.

The Editor-in-Chief is currently experiencing difficulty with slow turnaround of manuscripts, or even response to email, by some AEs, three in particular. The PC authorised the E-i-C to approach these individuals to determine if they wished to continue AEs. Two of these individuals will be offered the opportunity to continue as Advisory Editors rather than AEs given the high profile that they would bring to this role.

The PC considered development of a policy on the publication of book reviews in TRJ following the publication of several reviews in recent issues and some offers of reviews. The policy recommended by PC is:

- Book reviews will be accepted for publication as a moral obligation to our readership.
- Reviews will be limited to two pages, and preferably less, with a maximum of two per issue.
- Publishers will be invited to submit potential books for review to the Editor-in-Chief who will determine if a book is acceptable for review in light of content, and the current volume of material available for publication. If acceptable the book will be forwarded to an appropriate Associate Editor who will arrange the review and act as the 'peer reviewer' of the submitted manuscript (i.e. no other 'review of the review' will be undertaken). The publisher may nominate potential reviewers. The final decision to publish will remain with the Editor-in-Chief.
- Reviews will be published at the Society's expense.
- Reviewers should be recompensed by being provided with two copies of the book by the publisher (one for annotation and a clean copy), and being given complimentary membership of the Society for one year. If already members their membership fee for the year should be refunded.
- The reviewer will be required to sign a Licence to Publish.
- A template or guidelines for assessment of reviews will be developed and provided to Associate Editors.
- Volunteered reviews will generally not be accepted but discretion may be exercised by the Editor-in-Chief in consultation with the Chair of PC.

**Recommendation 2:** That Council adopt the policy on book reviews outlined above.

The PC considered a suggestion from Dr Ann Waters-Bayer (who is both an AE and an Advisory Editor) that TRJ host a discussion forum on topical issues, specifically the current mismatch in much overseas development work between current ecological theory and development practice. This concept had been suggested to Ann by a colleague. PC rejected the idea of discussion papers in TRJ but has suggested that such a forum could be hosted by ARS through our Facebook page.

Discussion between me and Dr Jenny Foster of CSIRO Publishing in Port Augusta has resulted to date in the following developments:

- CSIRO Publishing is seeking a new copyeditor following my documentation of poor copyediting standards in TRJ. Our concerns will be given priority;
- PC has agreed to expand the Scope statement of TRJ to indicate the while papers of local relevance may be accepted authors should draw out the broader significance of their work;
- Instructions to Authors will be amended to include guidelines to non-English speaking authors regarding the language quality of submitted manuscripts and the use of professional scientific editing services;
- The PC has noted that production of dedicated or commemorative special issues represents an opportunity to attract a wide readership (an example of such a commemorative issue has been given above);
- The Editor-in-Chief will attempt to solicit relevant photos from authors for inclusion in the on-line Table of Contents to attract readers' attention;
- CSIRO Publishing will be asked to produce a mock-up of a new front cover design for TRJ which will include the ARS logo (which currently appears only on the back cover).

#### **b) Range MANAGEMENT Newsletter**

Following the strategic planning meeting in Port Augusta a discussion paper was produced by Noelene Duckett and me considering options for development of the RMN. This paper (Appendix 2) drew on suggestions made at the Port Augusta meeting. The recommendations of the PC based on consideration of this paper are:

1. The name and format of the RMN remain unchanged;
2. Titles of papers from biennial conferences should be published in RMN, with links to the articles on the web site; it is not necessary to include abstracts;

3. Efforts should be made to attract 'lay summaries' (generally about one page, including pictures) of papers appearing *The Rangeland Journal*, setting out the practical implications of the work in lay language.

This process will require coordination between the Editor-in-Chief of TRJ, the Social Media Editor and the RMN Editor to identify potential papers, and approach authors; the process will provide material for Facebook and Twitter postings as well and has already been initiated by the Social Media Editor.

4. Formal reciprocal arrangements should be established with a range of other newsletters to share content;
5. Opinion pieces should be sought from appropriate individuals relating to topical rangeland issues, both nationally and internationally;
6. The current policy of embargoing the current issue until the next issue is produced should be maintained; a pay-per-view option for the current issue is not recommended;
7. The resources available to produce the RMN should, as required, be expanded to include
  - An Editorial Assistant (responsible for assisting to solicit lay summaries and monitoring of partner newsletters)
  - State correspondents (responsible for identifying topical issues and soliciting opinion pieces, in conjunction with the Editor)
  - Input from Advisory Editors (who would be asked to perform a role equivalent to State correspondents at the international level)
8. None of these additional positions should receive an honorarium but individuals should be recognized in an appropriate way (e.g. by having their names published in RMN and possibly provision of a CSIRO gift voucher or the like annually).

Appointment of State correspondents would require the development of Role Statements and the Role Statement of Advisory Editors would require revision to reflect this enlarged responsibility. Further discussion on each of these recommendations is provided in Appendix 2.

**Recommendation 3.** That Council accept the PC's recommendations 1-8 as the basis for development of the Range Management Newsletter.

### c) Web site

The Web Site Editor, Camilla Osborn, did not attend the meeting or submit an apology. This is in keeping with her general unresponsiveness in recent months. This may be associated with the recent birth of her second child, or perhaps with communications difficulties, but is nevertheless resulting in concerning delays in the planned development of the site e.g. no progress has yet been made in uploading papers from past biennial conferences to fill gaps in the current archive. This process has been in abeyance for the last two years.

A similar lack of responsiveness has recently been noted in our web site host Fat Beehive e.g. it has taken two months for them to take down the conference banner from the home page and restore the original rotating slide show. The departure of Paulk Beaton has had significant negative effects on the company's performance from the Society's perspective.

On a positive note Noelene Duckett has completed the index of all past issues of RMN, resulting in a table of 2,236 lines. However, we are still waiting on FatBeehive to sort out some difficulties in getting the index to work effectively on the site. This work can only be done by FatBeehive and it is probable that a charge will be made, depending on the amount of time required. This may amount to several hundred dollars.

A query has been raised by one of the speakers at Port Augusta regarding the attachment of a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) to conference papers posted on the web site. It appears that it would now be difficult to achieve this for papers from the Port August conference but PC considers that Council should make this a requirement for future conferences and bring this matter to the attention of the Organising Committee for the Canberra conference.

#### **d) Social media**

The transition of responsibility from Amber Marshall to the new Social Media Editor, Jodie Ward, has been smooth. While PC has recorded its thanks to Amber for her efforts over the last two years in placing the Society's social media activities on a sound footing, Council may wish to endorse these sentiments. Jodie has already take some pleasing initiatives including soliciting Facebook or Twitter posts from authors of interesting papers from Port Augusta or TRJ.

In her final report Amber noted that among the most popular Facebook posts were those provided by the President under the title 'Road to Saskatoon' . The PC considered that recipients of ARS travel awards should in future be required to provide such material.

**Recommendation 4.** That all future recipients of ARS travel scholarships be required to provide the Social Media Editor with a series of photos and short notes suitable for posting on social media that will allow members and others to follow their trip.

The current arrangement with Wright Social to provide a weekly Facebook post is due to expire in December. The exact date of commencement of this arrangement could be checked by Don Burnside from Heidi's invoices but my understanding is that it commenced on 22 Dec 2016. The original approval was for 12 months. Jodie has indicated that the arrangement is working well and that she values the diversity of material that input from Heidi ensures. She would prefer to see the current arrangement extended and is happy to forego \$500 of her Honorarium to allow this (as per the current arrangement).

**Recommendation 5.** That council extend the current arrangement with Wright Social for a further 12 months.

The discussion paper on the strategic role of social media, which I agreed at the Port Augusta meeting to produce for the November meeting of PC, has not been developed. This is due partly to my focus on the RMN discussion paper and partly to my desire to allow Jodie to settle into the new role before requiring her to contribute to this paper. I expect we will be able to deliver the paper, and PC recommendations, early in 2018.

#### **e) General**

Some discussion occurred at Port Augusta about the potential for ARS to produce an update of the book *Management of Australia's Rangelands* which was published in 1984. I undertook to investigate with CSIRO Publishing the process required to publish a book. I have discussed this idea with Briana Melideo, the CSIRO Publishing Books Publishing Director, and forwarded to the President a copy of the proposal form that must be submitted for any book publishing proposal to be considered by CSIRO.

Some interest was expressed in Port Augusta in a project to update *Plants of Western NSW*, which is substantially out of date in terms of nomenclature. I have discussed with Briana Melideo the possibility of producing a supplementary index which provides, as far as possible, the current names for species named in the original text. This may be feasible but anything more substantial would seem to be impractical. I have contacted Geoff Cunningham (the principal author who manages the authors' copyright to the book) and the ball is currently in his court.

#### **Discussion on Publications Committee Report:**

- The "Restore, Regenerate, Revegetate" and "Climate change adaptation of Mongolian grasslands" Special editions of TRJ will be published in December 2017 and 2018 respectively, but both will be dated as 2017 editions.
- Need to clarify the number of pages that can be published in TRJ in a calendar year under the publishing contract.
- Problems with delays in the development of the ARS website and the website host were noted by the ARS Council
- The organising committee for the 2019 ARS Conference in Canberra will be asked to include a "Digital Object Identifier" (DOI) on all conference papers posted on the ARS website.
- David is to send a copy of Ron Hacker's email about updating the 1984 book "*Management of Australia's Rangelands*" to ARS Council members

## PC Report Recommendations:

- Recommendation 1.  
Motion: That Council appoint Prof. Graciela Metternicht and Dr Steven Bray as Associate Editors of The Rangeland Journal on the usual terms and conditions and that the President advises each of their appointment.

**Moved:** Don Burnside

**Seconded:** Dionne Walsh

**Carried**

- Recommendation 2.  
Motion: That the policy as recommended in the Publications Committee report dated 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017 be adopted as presented, with modification of the 5<sup>th</sup> dot point to read “*Reviewers should be recompensed by being provided with two copies of the book by the publisher (one for annotation and a clean copy), and being given complimentary E-membership of the Society for one year.*” and that the line “*If already members their membership fee for the year should be refunded.*” be deleted.

**Moved:** Bob Shepherd

**Seconded:** Don Burnside

**Carried**

- Recommendation 3. *(To be discussed)*

- Recommendation 4.

A letter of appreciation is to be written from the ARS Council to Amber Marshall for her efforts as Social Media Editor over the last two years.

Motion: That all future recipients of ARS travel scholarships be required to provide the Social Media Editor with a series of photos and short notes suitable for posting on social media that will allow members and others to follow their trip.

**Moved:** Don Burnside

**Seconded:** Dionne Walsh

**Carried**

- Recommendation 5.

Motion: That council extend the current arrangement with Wright Social for a further 12 months.

**Moved:** Dionne Walsh

**Seconded:** Don Burnside

**Carried**

Motion: That the Publication Committee report be accepted. *(to be put)*

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

**Carried**

## 7. General/New Business:

### **Outback Alliance**

Motion: That the ARS accept an invitation to join the Outback Alliance to further the priorities of both parties.

**Moved:** Gus Whyte

**Seconded:** Don Burnside

**Carried**

## 8. Next meeting of Council:

- 

## 9. Meeting close: 7.20pm *(to be completed by email)*

## LIST OF ACTIONS:-

- A. Strategic Plan (actions still to be developed)
- B. An “Early Stage Professionals Forum” be recommended to the organizing committee for the 2019 ARS conference in Canberra, and that it include a short section on what young people need from the ARS. (Bob to action)
- C. On-line daily newsletters “Beef Central” & “Sheep Central.” After the RMN is discussed and finalized by the ARS Council, details of these two daily on-line newsletters are to be sent to Noelene Duckett as a potential outlet for ARS issues and media. (Don to action)
- D. IRC 2024 – form an organising committee in early 2018 to progress the bid
  - Guidelines for hosting an IRC are contained in the Continuing Committee Constitution (Don to send copy to Council members)



- Follow-up with Continuing Committee Chair Dana Kelly to ascertain dates for IRC bids and associated details (David to progress).
  - Social media may provide an avenue to enlist an organising committee – send details to Social Media Editor Jodie Ward when available, by the end of January. (Bob to progress)
- E.** Adelaide Convention Centre - brief report and circulate to ARS Council members (David to write)
- F.** International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists – item to remain on agenda for future updates
- G.** New ARS Fellow nominee
- ARS Fellow guidelines to be provided to secretary (Don to action)
  - Paul Jones (DAFQ Emerald) to be requested to coordinate and develop a case with contribution from Cathy Waters & Don Burnside (Bob to action)
- H.** Other categories of award eg honour board – item to remain on agenda
- I.** Publications Committee - letters were written to new members Ann Waters-Bayer & Jenny Silcock
- Secretary to obtain copies from David Phelps– (David to forward to Bob)
- J.** Role Statements for Publications Committee Members to be developed and ratified by the 2018 ARS AGM (Bob, Don, Ron and David to review current PC role statements for consistency with Council positions)
- To be done by end of February 2018
  - Obtain ratified versions for updating so that they align with current ARS Council member role statements (Bob to action)
- K.** Write a congratulatory and thank you letter to the Conference Organising Committee members, and after checking with John Gavin, thank you letters to the major sponsors. (Bob to action)
- L.** Publisher Operations WIT (Lianna Brewer) - membership inquiry from Alabama USA (Don to follow-up)
- M.** Need to clarify the number of pages that can be published in TRJ in a calendar year under the publishing contract. (Ron(?) to action)
- N.** The organising committee for the 2019 ARS Conference in Canberra will be asked to include a “Digital Object Identifier” (DOI) on all conference papers posted on the ARS website. (Bob to action)
- O.** David is to send a copy of Ron Hacker’s email about updating the 1984 book “Management of Australia’s Rangelands” to ARS Council members (David to action)
- P.** Appointment letter to Prof. Graciela Metternicht and Dr Steven Bray as Associate Editors of The Rangeland Journal (bob to action)
- Q.** Letter of appreciation to be written from the ARS Council to Amber Marshall (Bob to action)
- R.** That council extend the current arrangement with Wright Social for a further 12 months. (Don(?) to action)

## Appendix 1.

### **Proposals for appointment of Professor Graciela Metternicht and Dr Steven Bray as Associate Editors.**

#### **Professor Graciela Metternicht**

(A full CV is available on request and has been considered by the Publications Committee)

- Professor – Environmental Geography, SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL, EARTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA
- Email – g.metternicht@unsw.edu.au

Consideration of Professor Metternicht against selection criteria for Associate Editors (AEs) to the Rangelands Journal:

1. AEs should possess a knowledge of and experience in rangeland management or rangeland environments within the boundaries of those areas currently defined by the Publications Committee as being within the Journal's scope. The areas in which the Rangeland Journal accepts submissions are social-economic-ecological systems, ecological function and processes, land and water resources, utilisation and management of resources, conservation of biological and cultural heritage.

*Professor Graciela Metternicht is a Director and Professor within the Institute of Environmental Science at the University of New South Wales, and her work, as stated in her CV, has focussed on geospatial technologies for analysis and management of natural resources. I have personally worked with Professor Metternicht when she was based at Curtin University in Perth, where we were involved in an ARC Linkage project on rangeland assessment using geospatial techniques. Professor Metternicht recently attended the Australian Rangeland Society Biennial Conference where she presented a paper.*

2. The AE must be able to assess reviewers' comments in the light of their own appraisal of a submitted manuscript, and recommend to the Editor-in-Chief if the paper should be accepted, and under what circumstances (minor revision, major revision etc.).

*Professor Metternicht's extensive national and international publishing record (she has over 100 publications in peer reviewed journals) and, and her diverse experience make her well suited to assess reviewers' comments on manuscripts within her areas of interest and speciality, a speciality currently lacking in the Journal's list of Associate Editors. Her obvious focus on remotely sensed techniques and data would make her an excellent addition to the current list of AEs.*

3. AEs should be fluent in English, with the ability to understand if clarity of concepts is obscured by the language used or if the language used compromises the scientific understanding of the paper, and ensure that any feedback to authors is constructive.

*Graciela Metternicht is fully fluent in English.*

4. Where possible, AEs should have had some experience of how Manuscript Central (or a similar process) operates from the perspective of having been themselves the authors or reviewers of manuscripts.

*Professor Metternicht's extensive publishing record indicates a sound working knowledge of the process whereby manuscripts proceed through the publishing process. She has a good working knowledge of Manuscript Central from an author and reviewer's viewpoint, and has experience in the e-submission process across various publishers, from Elsevier through to Springer, John Wiley etc.*

5. AEs should have good knowledge and a network of contacts with other authors and colleagues, to identify potential reviewers for manuscripts allocated to them. They also need some understanding of the Journal's current and planned needs in assisting the Editor-in-Chief in selecting suitable papers.

*Professor Metternicht is familiar with The Rangeland Journal and she has, through her experience and contacts, an excellent network both within Australia and overseas. Her publication record suggest contacts with a considerable number of individuals and relevant institutions.*

6. AEs need to keep the review process moving steadily, which involves acquiring reviewers promptly after being allocated papers and following up on reviewers who are late in submitting their reviews.

*Professor Metternicht's publication record in terms of the number of articles published and the journals in which they are published suggests she has a capacity to finish the tasks she commences, and possesses the discipline to keep the Rangeland Journal's processes moving.*

Professor PE Novelly  
Editor-in-Chief  
The Rangeland Journal  
18 October 2017

### **Selection criteria for Associate Editor to the Rangeland Journal**

(A full CV is available on request and has been considered by the Publications Committee)

**Name** Dr Steven Gregory BRAY

**Current position** **Regional Manager - Beef and Sheep (South )**  
**Department of Agriculture & Fisheries (DAF), Brisbane**  
**Ecosciences Precinct, GPO Box 267, Brisbane Qld 4001**  
**Phone 0428 103072**  
**Email [steven.bray@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:steven.bray@daf.qld.gov.au)**

Associate Editors (AEs) to the Rangelands Journal should be competent in the following areas.

1. AEs should possess a knowledge of and experience in rangeland management or rangeland environments within the boundaries of those areas currently defined by the Publications Committee as being within the Journal's scope. The areas in which the Rangeland Journal accepts submissions are social-economic-ecological systems, ecological function and processes, land and water resources, utilisation and management of resources, conservation of biological and cultural heritage.

*As shown in the attached CV, Dr Bray has an extensive knowledge of and experience in grazing land management and the science and management of domestic stock (cattle and sheep) in Australian rangelands extending beyond 20 years. His knowledge extends from basic field research, through the management of field projects, to involvement in, and management of, demonstration and extension projects. This is also demonstrated by his broad publication record. Dr Bray's focus on sustainable domestic animal management in rangelands, and experience with dealing with issues associated with climate change (a common topic of many manuscripts currently being submitted to the Journal) would fill a current void within the suite of Associate Editors for the Rangeland Journal.*

2. The AE must be able to assess reviewers' comments in the light of their own appraisal of a submitted manuscript, and recommend to the Editor-in-Chief if the paper should be accepted, and under what circumstances (minor revision, major revision etc.).

*Dr Bray's extensive publishing record provides evidence that he is well equipped to assess reviewers' comments on manuscripts within his areas of interest and speciality. Dr Bray was the Guest Editor of the Climate Clever Beef Special Issue of the Rangeland Journal in 2016, an issue that was efficiently produced, and well received.*

3. AEs should be fluent in English, with the ability to understand if clarity of concepts is obscured by the language used or if the language used compromises the scientific understanding of the paper, and ensure that any feedback to authors is constructive.

*Dr Bray is a native English speaker.*

4. Where possible, AEs should have had some experience of how Manuscript Central (or a similar process) operates from the perspective of having been themselves the authors or reviewers of manuscripts.

*Dr Bray is familiar with the standard processes of publication, as well as specific experience with Scholar One through publication in the Rangeland Journal, and his role as Guest Editor of a Journal Special Issue.*

5. AEs should have good knowledge and a network of contacts with other authors and colleagues, to identify potential reviewers for manuscripts allocated to them. They also need some understanding of the Journal's current and planned needs in assisting the Editor-in-Chief in selecting suitable papers.

*Dr Bray is familiar with The Rangeland Journal, as both a reader and contributor. He has a very broad network within the Australian rangeland community at the government agency, funding body and University level, strong, and mutually beneficial collaborative relationships across Australia and overseas (see attached cv), and he is highly respected for his science and communication skills.*

6. AEs need to keep the review process moving steadily, which involves acquiring reviewers promptly after being allocated papers and following up on reviewers who are late in submitting their reviews.

*Dr Bray has a reputation as a research output achiever, and in mentoring and assisting young scientists, and is well respected by his peers for his enthusiasm for rangeland and sustainable domestic animal management.*

Professor PE Novelly  
Editor-in-Chief  
The Rangeland Journal  
15 November 2017

## **Appendix 2.**

### **Revitalising the Range Management Newsletter**

(A Discussion Paper Prepared by Ron Hacker and Noelene Duckett)

Following the 19<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference in Port Augusta members of the ARS Council, together with the Chair of the Publications Committee and the Editor-in-Chief of *The Rangeland Journal*, engaged in a strategic planning meeting to consider ways in which the Society's future could be assured. Part of this discussion focused on the perceived need to enhance the value of *Range Management Newsletter* (RMN) to both members and non-members. This discussion paper has been prepared on the basis of options discussed at that meeting (and others provided by the authors) for consideration by the Publications Committee, in the first instance, and subsequently by Council. The paper is structured around several broad issues which encapsulate the range of options suggested at the Port Augusta meeting.

#### **1. Presentation/Look of the Newsletter**

Relevant questions:

- Is the current format of the RMN appealing to members?
- Do members receive digital newsletters from other organisations that are more visually appealing?
- Is the name of the newsletter still appropriate or should we rename it?

Discussion

The RMN is currently published in electronic format only, hard copy publication ceasing at the end of 2015. This move was largely driven by economics and does not appear to have resulted in any backlash from members (who were given considerable warning of the impending change). No change to this aspect of the RMN format is considered feasible.

The RMN is published as a series of individual articles, only the title and synopsis of which are shown on the home page of each issue. A link takes the reader to the full text. This is in contrast to some other newsletters in which a 'laid-out' version of the document is mounted on the web site as a pdf and the entire content is available once the file is opened. We consider that the current format of RMN is professional and well suited to newsletters that contain, or are likely to contain, numerous articles of reasonable length. This format is adopted, for example, by the AWI e-newsletter *Beyond the Bale*. The alternate format is probably

more appropriate for shorter newsletters comprising largely snippets rather than substantial articles. We therefore consider that the current publishing format of RMN is appropriate to its current and likely future needs. One caveat that should be paced on this conclusion, however, is that the use of colour images should be maximized, both on the home page of each issue and in the individual articles, to maximise the visual appeal to readers.

The RMN has been published continuously since December 1975 when the name of the preceding Range Assessment Newsletter was changed to reflect the broadening interest of the publication. It is thus one of the longest running newsletters servicing rangeland interests in Australia, indeed perhaps the longest. There seems no compelling reason in terms of changes to the scope of the newsletter, or its geographic coverage, to relinquish the advantages of long term continuity and brand recognition associated with the present title. While the subjects of interest to the readership have certainly changed over time (e.g. as rangelands have come to be regarded as social-ecological systems rather than simply biophysical systems) there seems no reason why this paradigm shift cannot be accommodated within the generic concept of 'range management' as that term is understood in Australia. It could be argued that the term 'rangeland', given Australian usage, might be more appropriate than 'range' but the advantage of making this change is probably small.

## **2. Content of the Newsletter**

Relevant questions

- Does the current content of the newsletter have a broad appeal to members? If not, what additional sort of articles should we be focusing on? Would 'magazine style' format appeal more?
- Is the newsletter an appropriate forum for the publication of papers from the biennial conference?
- Would it be useful to include articles in the RMN that translate papers from TRJ into more practical terms? How would we encourage authors to submit these more practical articles?
- Could we cooperate with other newsletters to share relevant information and articles?

Discussion

At present the RMN contains mostly (in terms of the number of articles) 'administrative' material such as reports from Council and the Publications Committee, notices of various sorts, reports, and pieces by the President and the Editor. While some technical articles written in a 'lay' format have been contributed in recent times, and may have been of considerable interest to many readers, much of the content is probably of little interest to most members. The impression is that the number of articles dealing with practical issues of range management has declined over the long term. Although no statistics have been compiled to support this assertion it would hardly be surprising as the rangeland R,D&E establishment has followed a similar trend.

There would be considerable value in obtaining some basic user information on the electronic issues of the RMN that have been mounted on the website – in particular, how many people are accessing each issue and which articles are read most often. The Editor has approached FatBeehive to see whether such information can be obtained, and is waiting to hear back from them.

Enhancing the value of RMN to members, and non-members who access the archive via the web site, depends on (a) publishing more articles of general interest relative to the number of 'administrative' articles and (b) ensuring that the content of the newsletter is readily accessible and searchable.

Item (b) above is already in hand as the Editor has recently completed an index of all RMN articles and this will soon be available on the web site. It will be updated as successive newsletters are produced.

Item (a) currently presents the major challenge. It is unlikely that with a small rangeland R,D&E establishment in Australia, and with total reliance on voluntary staff, the RMN could be successfully converted into a 'magazine style' format comparable to 'Rangelands', produced by the Society for Range Management in the USA. While not all articles should be provided by the rangelands R,D&E establishment, history has shown that very few contributions can be expected from landholders. Contributions from overseas authors would certainly be welcomed but care would need to be taken to ensure that English language editing requirements did not overwhelm the very limited resources available for production. In the short-medium term, therefore, it would seem appropriate to maintain the current format of the RMN while actively seeking to increase the number of articles dealing with technical issues in lay language.

Options for achieving this include:

- Inclusion of titles and/or abstracts from the biennial conferences in the RMN, with links to the full text articles. Given that papers from the conferences will appear on the web site there is no point in duplicating these in the RMN. Even inclusion of the abstracts may be superfluous and unduly cumbersome for a newsletter. However, links to titles, once the papers are posted on the web site, would be a useful inclusion in the RMN.
- Publication of 'lay summaries' of papers appearing either in the Journal or in the biennial conference proceedings. These lay summaries would highlight the practical implications of the research in plain language. They would extend the summary information already provided by *The Rangeland Journal* for papers appearing in the current issue or 'on-line early' on the journal's web site. They would generally be no more than a page, preferably with pictures. An opportunity exists here to integrate the Society's social media activities and the RMN. The recently appointed Social Media Editor has commenced a process of contacting authors of recently published papers in *The Rangeland Journal* to promote their work through a brief overview of their findings posted on social media, together with a picture and a link to the journal home page. The approach to authors is selective, focusing on papers that have some immediate practical application. This offer could be extended to include the publication of a one page lay summary in RMN, with appropriate pictures, drawing out the practical implications of the work in lay language. Given the pressure on authors to promote their work this could be an attractive offer. Some formalized liaison process would be required between the RMN editor and the Social Media Editor in the selection of papers (which could be by either party), time lines for response and lines of communication with authors. The details of this arrangement can be left to a later date if this option is adopted. It should be emphasized that production of such a lay summary would not be a prerequisite for publication in *The Rangeland Journal*.
- Increasing integration with other newsletters. Reciprocal arrangements with other newsletters to provide links to interesting articles, or news of forthcoming events, could considerably expand the range of relevant material available to RMN (and vice versa). Such links could constitute a separate page in each edition of the newsletter. While this information may be redundant for some RMN subscribers (who subscribe to multiple newsletters) it would probably provide considerable interest for many. Some previous issues of the RMN have included articles taken from other newsletters/websites and a majority of the feedback provided to the Editor has suggested that these have been interesting and relevant to readers (only a few have commented that they have seen the information before).

Preliminary approaches to a number of newsletter Editors/producers has indicated that such an arrangement would be welcomed by *The Western Newsletter* (formerly the *Western Division Newsletter*, a long-running and influential newsletter for Western Division pastoralists), the Western Local Land Services e-Newsletter, *Beyond the Bale* (a newsletter for wool growers produced by Australian Wool Innovation) and the Rangelands NRM Alliance Update. Given these responses, it is likely that approaches to other newsletters would receive a similar response. It should thus be feasible to establish arrangements whereby the RMN Editor (or an assistant - see below) is able to access a number of current newsletters in the process of preparing each edition of RMN, and include in it links to relevant information. In return, Editors of the various newsletters involved in the arrangement would require access to the latest RMN. This issue is discussed further below.

In addition to lay technical articles the RMN could publish opinion pieces or information on issues of current interest to rangeland practitioners. This would require the Editor to keep abreast of developments across the rangelands, and to some extent internationally, and solicit articles from appropriate individuals. Such articles would enhance the reputation of RMN as a forum for discussion (provided the discussion is relevant to the publication frequency of the newsletter) but would probably require more resources than are currently available (see below).

### **3. Availability of the Newsletter**

Relevant questions

- Is the period of embargo of the current newsletter appropriate?
- Should we implement a pay-per-view deal for non-members wishing to view the current issue?

Discussion

The current issue of RMN is available only in the Members Area of the web site. All other issues are publicly available from the home page. Until recently issues of RMN were held in the Members Area for up to two years in order to prevent access by non-paying individuals. This policy was changed in order to make the RMN as widely available as possible while still preserving a degree of exclusive access for members. If this overall policy is maintained there would seem no reason to alter the period of embargo from the current interval of 4 months between consecutive issues.

The concept of pay-per-view represents a compromise position in which non-members could view the current issue for payment of a fee. The current cost of 'standard membership with e-Newsletter only' is \$80 per year. A fee of \$20 to view the current issue would be reasonable given publication of three issues per year. This compares with \$25 to purchase a paper from TRJ from the CSIRO Publishing site.

Advice from Fat Beehive indicates that establishing such a facility would be relatively straightforward. The current newsletter link would be located on the home page of the web site (i.e. the current issue would be removed from the Members Area). Accessing the current issue would then involve:

- Click the current newsletter link; a new page opens;
- New page requires login for members; non-members are offered a choice of 'pay-per-view' or membership subscription.

Fat Beehive has advised that to establish this facility would require 3-4 hours work (they have not yet advised their hourly rate for this). However, since some form of data collection would be required to establish the facility our privacy policies would need to be rewritten. Other issues to consider would be:

- Should an individual be given membership if they pay-per-view to the value of membership (an issue raised by Fat Beehive)?
- If an individual elects to join ARS rather than pay-per-view can that membership be translated into immediate newsletter access?
- Should an index of the current issue be provided (e.g. on the page accessed by clicking the current issue link) to assist individuals decide if they wish to proceed?

This option appears to offer some advantages to the ARS in that a small source of revenue would be generated and additional membership is encouraged.

Should the ARS enter into reciprocal sharing arrangements with other newsletters it would be necessary for their newsletter editors to have access to the current issue of RMN. This could be achieved by providing complimentary membership to nominated individuals. However, links to articles in the current newsletter could not be provided in other newsletters (since they are embargoed and require password access). The best that might be achieved is that other newsletters report the title of articles that may be of interest to their readers, note the membership/pay-per-view requirement, and provide a link to the log-in/pay-per-view page.

#### **4. Support**

Relevant questions

- Should we consider the equivalent of associate editors or advisory editors for RMN?
- How can we best improve integration between TRJ, RMN and social media?
- Would it be appropriate to have a group of 'media editors' that support the RMN as well as Web-site and Social Media editors?

Discussion

At present the only resource available to produce the RMN is the Editor who is primarily reliant on articles contributed from members. This level of resourcing is considered inadequate if some or all of the options outlined above are adopted, particularly soliciting of 'lay summaries' of technical articles, opinion pieces on current issues, and integration with other newsletters.

Implementation of these options would result in a high level of integration between RMN, TRJ and social media.

The task of integration with other newsletters represents a discrete function which could be handled either by the Editor or a specific volunteer. This individual would have the task of monitoring all those newsletters with which RMN has partnered and preparing a page of links for inclusion in the next issue. The current Editor is prepared to undertake this function if formal agreements are established with a number of

collaborating newsletters. Alternative arrangements to appoint a volunteer Editorial Assistant may be required in future.

The task of soliciting 'lay summaries' could be shared between the RMN Editor and the Social Media Editor as the latter has already initiated a related process. Input from the Editor-in-Chief of *The Rangeland Journal* in identifying accepted papers suitable for this purpose would be desirable, and would allow lay summaries to appear in RMN at the earliest opportunity. While the current Editor would be able to handle these arrangements in the first instance the services of an Editorial Assistant would be desirable in the longer term.

Soliciting opinion pieces requires up to date knowledge of developments across the rangelands, and internationally to some extent. It would be desirable to appoint a State correspondent in all relevant states and the NT who would identify topical issues and, in consultation with the Editor, approach particular individuals for an opinion piece for RMN. The international function might best be achieved by requesting Advisory Editors of TRJ to perform a similar role. Such a role has been performed informally by some individuals in the past but a formalised arrangement would be desirable going forward. State correspondents would be responsible for soliciting a minimum number of opinion pieces per year (say 1 or 2).

To implement the initiatives outlined above the Editor of RMN would operate with an Editorial Assistant (whose duties could include monitoring of partner newsletters and soliciting of 'lay summaries'), a series of State correspondents, and with support from TRJ Advisory Editors. These positions would require a Role Statement approved by Council and the Role Statement of Advisory Editors would require amendment. Some Advisory Editors may choose to resign their appointment in view of this change although the present role is not onerous and the proposed addition may actually be welcomed by some as a means of making a more definite contribution. None of these positions would receive either an Honorarium or complimentary Membership. Their services might be recognized in other ways (e.g. by listing of their names in the Newsletter, provision of a CSIRO book voucher annually).