

The Australian Rangeland Society

Council Meeting No. 261 Minutes

Time: 5.10pm (QLD Time); **Date:** 28th February 2018 by Teleconference

1. **Present:** David Phelps, Don Burnside, & Bob Shepherd, Megan Munchenberg & Angus Whyte (until 6.05pm)

Apologies: Andrew Ash, Dionne Walsh, Cathy Waters

2. Minutes of the previous meeting:

Motion: That the minutes of Council Meeting No. 260 held on the 6th December 2017 by teleconference be approved.

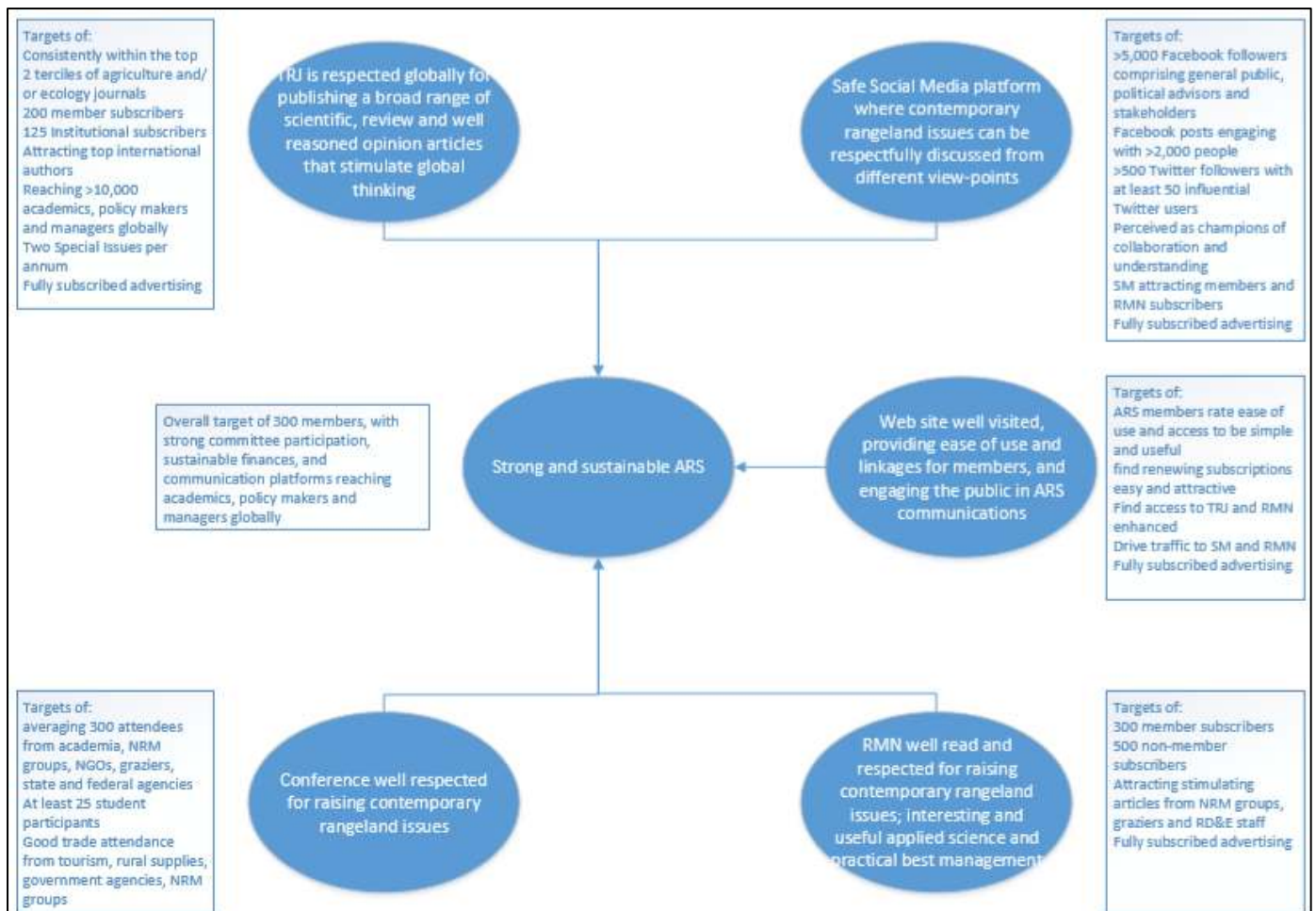
Moved: Don Burnside

Seconded: Megan Munchenberg

Carried

3. Business arising from the minutes:

A. **Strategic Plan** – David Phelps circulated a draft mind-map of a framework for a 5 year strategic plan to Council members on the 9th December 2017 (see below)



The Range Management Newsletter Increasing the profile and membership of the ARS is centred around the RMN. The following discussion by Council was as a result of the Publication Committee Report (Recommendation 3) as presented to the December 2017 meeting of the ARS Council.

- Increase the awareness of the RMN by including or linking articles in on-line newsletters such as Beef Central & Sheep Central, and any of the State-based pastoral industry newsletters that are relevant to Australia's rangelands
- Be aware that some websites are fee for access only – these should be avoided
- The ARS website editor Noelene Duckett is waiting for Council direction before progressing the Beef & Sheep Central options
- Allow free access to the RMN for 12 months via other digital outlets to increase interest, then consider paid advertising eg on Beef/Sheep Central to increase ARS membership
- Widespread promotion of the RMN and availability of selected articles via other organisations and websites, will increase interest and potentially membership of the Society ie use the RMN to attract more members
- Introduce an associate ARS membership (\$10/year) that provides access to the RMN only
- Allow free access to the previous RMN edition when each new edition is published.
- Include social media outlets for the RMN articles.
- Be aware of the possible negative effects that free or reduced cost options for accessing the RMN may have on ARS membership
- Seek advice from other on-line newsletter editors

Consensus:- Provide articles and links from the RMN to other on-line outlets and reciprocate by hosting their articles/links on the ARS website. Quarantine the current RMN edition (to all except ARS members) until the next edition has been published.

Key points:-

- Don't compromise core ARS membership
- Open services & knowledge to a broader audience
- Promotion (eg paid advertising) to attract new and lapsed members
- The website editor Noelene Duckett will require additional support from the ARS Council by way of a subcommittee and additional assistance.

Action:- Compile a list of possible outlets across all rangeland areas, where the key target audience is pastoralists, Indigenous land owners/managers, NRM groups, Pastoral Boards, Bush Heritage (and other like-minded organisations), extension organisations, etc

Motion: That the ARS Council accept the PC's recommendations 1-8 from the December 2017 Publication Committee report as the basis for development of the Range Management Newsletter, but with a strong emphasis on on-ground articles and the advice from Heidi Wright (Social Media support person).

Moved: Don Burnside

Seconded: Megan Munchenberg

Carried

- B.** An "Early Stage Professionals Forum" be recommended to the organizing committee for the 2019 ARS conference in Canberra – **(Done)**
- 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. **(Done)**
- D.** IRC 2024 – form an organising committee in early 2018 to progress the bid **(ongoing)**
- Guidelines for hosting an IRC are contained in the Continuing Committee Constitution **(Done)**
 - Follow-up with Continuing Committee Chair Dana Kelly to ascertain dates for IRC bids and associated details **(Done)**.
 - Dana Kelly advised that the deadline for bids to host the 2024 IRC is October 2018
 - Use the RMN as a vehicle to call for interest in being on a 2024 IRC organizing Committee **(Bob to action)**
 - Now that Dana Kelly has returned from Kenya, a request to be re-sent to Dana Kelly for key points that could be distributed via social media **(Bob to action)**
 - The congress will be an IRC only. Every second congress will be combined with the IGC.

- Formal letter of offer of \$100,000 sponsorship has been received from the NT Government if the congress is held in the NT, but will consider sponsorship even if only lead-up events are held in the NT eg pre-congress tours.
 - Adelaide Convention Centre has loan facilities available to support events if the main congress is held in Adelaide. Clarification will be sought about the terms of loans, grants, other support and if preliminary events being held in the NT would detract from these.
 - The 2019 Canberra ARS Conference will be a good opportunity to lobby for sponsorship for a 2024 IRC in Australia
 - Consider hosting the IRC as a joint congress between the ARS and the Ecological Society of Australia (ESA). ESA may be a potential IRC sponsor as well.
- E.** Adelaide Convention Centre – a brief report is to be written and circulated to ARS Council members **(David to write)**
- F.** International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists – item to remain on agenda for future updates **(on standby)**
- G.** New ARS Fellow nominee
- ARS Fellow guidelines to be provided to secretary **(Done)**
 - Paul Jones (DAFQ Emerald) to be requested to coordinate and develop a case with contribution from Cathy Waters & Don Burnside **(Done)**
- H.** Other categories of award eg honour board – **(on standby)**
- I.** Publications Committee - letters were written to new members Ann Waters-Bayer & Jenny Silcock
- Secretary to obtain copies from David Phelps **(David to action)**
- J.** Role Statements for Publications Committee Members to be developed and ratified by the 2018 ARS AGM
- To be done by end of February 2018
 - Obtain ratified versions for updating so that they align with current ARS Council member role statements **(current versions have been provided by Ron Hacker, Publications Committee Chair)**. A suitable motion is to be developed by email for consideration by Council over the next 10 days. **(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. **(Draft letters to sponsors have been forwarded to David)**. A thank you letter will be sent to the organizing committee when the final conference report is available. **(Bob & David to action)**
- L.** Publisher Operations WIT (Lianna Brewer) - membership inquiry from Alabama USA **(Done)**
- M.** Need to clarify the number of pages that can be published in TRJ in a calendar year under the publishing contract. **(Done)** There are no problems if publications spill over into next year.
- 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. **(Done)**
- 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 letters to Prof. Graciela Metternicht and Dr Steven Bray as Associate Editors of The Rangeland Journal **(Draft letters written - David to check that they have been sent)**
- Q.** Letter of appreciation to be written from the ARS Council to Amber Marshall **(Done)**
- R.** That council extend the current arrangement with Wright Social for a further 12 months. **(Done)**

4. Correspondence

 @ Addendum to PC report	Wed 28-Feb-18 3:49 PM
 Re: FW: Rangeland Vegetation Ecologist	Wed 28-Feb-18 1:47 PM
 RE: Cheque from NSW State Library	Wed 28-Feb-18 1:12 PM
 Re: Nominations for the 2018 Prime Minister's Prizes for Science are now open	Tue 27-Feb-18 8:16 PM
 Nominations for the 2018 Prime Minister's Prizes for Science are now open	Tue 27-Feb-18 8:10 PM
 @ Cheque from NSW State Library	Tue 27-Feb-18 8:06 PM
 @ RE: ARS Council Meeting #261 Wednesday 28th February 2018 5.00pm Qld Time - conference budget w actuals	Tue 27-Feb-18 7:42 PM
 cheque from NSW State Library	Tue 27-Feb-18 1:12 PM
 @ Financial Report for this week's Council meeting	Mon 26-Feb-18 12:56 PM
 @ FW: Role Statement Member of Publications Committee	Mon 26-Feb-18 11:12 AM
 @ FW: Thank You Letters 19th ARS Conference Sponsors	Sun 25-Feb-18 9:58 PM
 @ PC report for Council	Sun 25-Feb-18 12:45 PM
 @ Role Statement Member of Publications Committee	Sun 25-Feb-18 12:26 PM
 @ ARS Associate Editors Graciela Metternicht & Steven Bray	Sun 25-Feb-18 10:39 AM
 Articles for the March RMN newsletter	Fri 23-Feb-18 9:54 AM
 Re: FW: Port Augusta ARS Conference - Final Report	Mon 19-Feb-18 9:29 PM
 ARS Council Meeting	Sun 18-Feb-18 3:48 PM
 @ WebEx meeting invitation: ARS Council Meeting	Sun 18-Feb-18 3:42 PM
 Port Augusta ARS Conference - Final Report	Sun 18-Feb-18 3:21 PM
 @ ARS Fellowship Nomination - Dr Jim Noble	Sun 18-Feb-18 11:38 AM
 @ Australian Rangeland Society Conference - Canberra 2019	Sun 18-Feb-18 11:18 AM
 RE: ASIC Annual Company Statement and Review Fee [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED] - details needed for Bob Shepherd	Sat 17-Feb-18 2:54 PM
 RE: Declined: ARS Council Meeting	Sat 17-Feb-18 2:49 PM
 RE: FW: ASIC Annual Company Statement and Review Fee [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED] - details needed for Bob Shepherd	Sat 17-Feb-18 11:03 AM
 RE: FW: ASIC Annual Company Statement and Review Fee [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED] - details needed for Bob Shepherd	Sat 17-Feb-18 11:01 AM
 RE: FW: ASIC Annual Company Statement and Review Fee [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED] - details needed for Bob Shepherd	Sat 17-Feb-18 11:00 AM
 ASIC Annual Company Statement and Review Fee [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED] - details needed for Bob Shepherd	Sat 17-Feb-18 10:56 AM
 RE: Declined: ARS Council Meeting	Sat 17-Feb-18 10:46 AM
 RE: IRC bid for 2024	Fri 16-Feb-18 12:11 PM
 RE: FW: ASIC Annual Company Statement and Review Fee [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED] - details needed for Bob Shepherd	Fri 16-Feb-18 11:54 AM
 RE: IRC bid for 2024	Fri 16-Feb-18 8:55 AM
 IRC bid for 2024	Thu 15-Feb-18 12:39 PM
 RE: Australian Rangeland Society 20th Biennial Conference - Canberra	Wed 14-Feb-18 10:20 PM
 RE: Jeff Mills (Melrose Qld) Payment to ARS \$190 Scan 4 Feb. 2018, 9.42 pm	Mon 05-Feb-18 11:19 AM
 @ Fwd: Scan 4 Feb. 2018, 9.42 pm	Sun 04-Feb-18 9:18 PM
 RE: Australian Rangeland Society 20th Biennial Conference - Canberra	Sun 04-Feb-18 4:10 PM
 Re: IRC 2024 - Australian Bid	Sun 04-Feb-18 2:58 PM
 RE: On-line global rangelands discussion	Sun 04-Feb-18 12:52 PM
 On-line global rangelands discussion	Sat 03-Feb-18 8:38 PM
 Re: IRC Bid for Australia 2024	Sat 03-Feb-18 6:58 PM
 RE: Australian Rangeland Society 20th Biennial Conference - Canberra	Sat 03-Feb-18 6:54 PM
 RE: ARS Council Meeting Dates for 2018	Sat 03-Feb-18 6:50 PM
 RE: need info	Sat 03-Feb-18 12:47 PM
 Australian Rangeland Society 20th Biennial Conference - Canberra (2nd Draft)	Sat 03-Feb-18 11:27 AM
 RE: ARS Council Meeting Dates for 2018	Fri 02-Feb-18 6:24 PM
 RE: ARS Council Meeting Dates for 2018	Fri 02-Feb-18 6:07 PM
 RE: Next meeting of Publications Committee	Fri 02-Feb-18 7:37 AM
 @ ARS Council Meeting Dates for 2018	Thu 01-Feb-18 9:23 PM
 RE: Next meeting of Publications Committee	Thu 01-Feb-18 7:52 PM
 Re: Next meeting of Publications Committee	Thu 01-Feb-18 4:51 PM
 Date of Council meeting	Wed 31-Jan-18 9:42 AM
 RE: Next Council Meeting?	Mon 29-Jan-18 1:35 PM
 Next Council Meeting?	Mon 29-Jan-18 1:10 PM
 RE: TRJ appointments	Mon 29-Jan-18 7:40 AM
 TRJ appointments	Sun 28-Jan-18 9:51 PM
 RE: Carbon Farming on Pastoral Land in WA	Thu 25-Jan-18 12:01 PM
 RE: Carbon Farming on Pastoral Land in WA	Thu 25-Jan-18 8:47 AM
 Carbon Farming Information	Thu 25-Jan-18 7:29 AM
 Carbon Farming on Pastoral Land in WA	Thu 25-Jan-18 7:24 AM
 need info	Wed 24-Jan-18 9:37 AM
 @ RE: Publication schedule for The Rangeland Journal	Mon 22-Jan-18 7:39 PM
Australian Rangeland Society website: Cannot log in to admin. Problem with user renewal.	Mon 22-Jan-18 5:52 PM
RE: Publication schedule for The Rangeland Journal	Mon 22-Jan-18 4:32 PM
Australian Rangeland Society website: Cannot log in to admin. Problem with user renewal.	Mon 22-Jan-18 1:24 PM
RE: Publication schedule for The Rangeland Journal	Mon 22-Jan-18 9:46 AM
RE: Login to ARS website - Richard Silcock Qld	Sun 21-Jan-18 2:36 PM

	Login to ARS website - Richard Silcock Qld	Sun 21-Jan-18 1:13 PM
	RE: Publication schedule for The Rangeland Journal	Fri 19-Jan-18 3:08 PM
	RE: ARS membership	Fri 19-Jan-18 2:29 PM
	Australian Rangeland Society website: Cannot log in to admin. Problem with user renewal.	Fri 19-Jan-18 1:02 PM
	RE: Publication schedule for The Rangeland Journal	Fri 19-Jan-18 12:10 PM
	Re: Publication schedule for The Rangeland Journal	Fri 19-Jan-18 9:53 AM
	RE: Publication schedule for The Rangeland Journal	Fri 19-Jan-18 6:04 AM
	RE: ARS Subscription Renewal	Thu 18-Jan-18 11:18 PM
	Publication schedule for The Rangeland Journal	Thu 18-Jan-18 8:08 PM
	RE: ARS Subscription Renewal	Thu 18-Jan-18 1:34 PM
	ARS Council Meeting Dates for 2018	Thu 18-Jan-18 1:31 PM
	FW: Publication schedule for The Rangeland Journal	Thu 18-Jan-18 1:18 PM
	RE: Publication schedule for The Rangeland Journal	Thu 18-Jan-18 1:17 PM
	Publication schedule for The Rangeland Journal	Thu 18-Jan-18 10:30 AM
	RE: ARS Subscription Renewal	Wed 17-Jan-18 11:51 PM
	ARS Subscription Renewal	Wed 17-Jan-18 6:20 PM
	RE: ARS records	Thu 11-Jan-18 2:54 PM
	RE: ARS records	Wed 10-Jan-18 9:09 PM
	ARS records	Wed 10-Jan-18 4:26 PM
	RE: Honorary Fellow - Eric Russell Anderson	Wed 03-Jan-18 9:00 PM
	RE: Honorary Fellow - Eric Russell Anderson	Wed 03-Jan-18 8:46 PM
	December 2017 bank statements	Wed 03-Jan-18 7:27 PM
	FW: Honorary Fellow - Eric Russell Anderson	Sun 31-Dec-17 8:22 PM
	Honorary Fellow - Eric Russell Anderson	Sun 31-Dec-17 3:40 PM
	RE: Meeting dates for 2018	Thu 28-Dec-17 12:50 PM
	RE: Membership renewal notice for 2018	Sat 23-Dec-17 5:24 PM
	RE: Minutes of ARS Council Meeting Wednesday 6th December 2017	Sat 23-Dec-17 5:20 PM
	Minutes of ARS Council Meeting Wednesday 6th December 2017	Sat 23-Dec-17 11:28 AM
	RE: ARS Council Meeting Wednesday 6th December 2017 5.00pm Qld Time - last outstanding matter	Sat 23-Dec-17 11:10 AM
	RE: ARS Council Meeting Wednesday 6th December 2017 5.00pm Qld Time - last outstanding matter	Sat 23-Dec-17 11:00 AM
	RE: Membership renewal notice for 2018	Sat 23-Dec-17 10:02 AM
	RE: ARS Council Meeting Wednesday 6th December 2017 5.00pm Qld Time - last outstanding matter	Wed 20-Dec-17 1:12 PM
	RE: ARS Council Meeting Wednesday 6th December 2017 5.00pm Qld Time - last outstanding matter	Wed 20-Dec-17 9:21 AM
	Re: Appointments to The Rangeland Journal	Tue 19-Dec-17 9:12 PM
	RE: ARS Council Meeting Wednesday 6th December 2017 5.00pm Qld Time - last outstanding matter	Tue 19-Dec-17 1:56 PM
	Fwd: Sponsor names and email list please?	Mon 18-Dec-17 8:56 AM
	RE: ARS Council Meeting Wednesday 6th December 2017 5.00pm Qld Time - last outstanding matter	Sat 16-Dec-17 3:11 PM
	RE: ARS Council Meeting Wednesday 6th December 2017 5.00pm Qld Time - last outstanding matter	Sat 16-Dec-17 2:14 PM
	subs due 31st March according to constitution	Sat 16-Dec-17 2:02 PM
	RE: Articles for the newsletter	Sat 16-Dec-17 1:51 PM
	RE: ARS Council Meeting Wednesday 6th December 2017 5.00pm Qld Time	Sat 16-Dec-17 8:35 AM
	Re: Membership of the Australian Rangeland Society for 2018	Fri 15-Dec-17 9:54 PM
	Renewal notice for 2018 - Australian Rangeland Society	Thu 14-Dec-17 11:16 PM
	RE: Bob's absence from Ch Towers	Thu 14-Dec-17 11:03 AM
	RE: Membership renewal notice for 2018	Thu 14-Dec-17 8:33 AM
	Congratulations	Thu 14-Dec-17 6:53 AM
	Membership renewal notice for 2018	Wed 13-Dec-17 11:37 PM
	RE: Minutes ARS Council Meeting 6th Dec 2017(DRAFT)	Wed 13-Dec-17 7:39 PM
	RE: Obtaining information for inclusion in the RMN	Wed 13-Dec-17 7:12 PM
	RE: ARS Council Meeting Wednesday 6th December 2017 5.00pm Qld Time	Wed 13-Dec-17 4:58 PM
	RE: Matters arising from our discussions	Wed 13-Dec-17 2:12 PM
	RE: Matters arising from our discussions	Wed 13-Dec-17 12:22 PM
	RE: Matters arising from our discussions	Wed 13-Dec-17 7:47 AM
	Re: FW: Matters arising from our discussions	Tue 12-Dec-17 4:43 PM
	FW: Matters arising from our discussions	Tue 12-Dec-17 3:39 PM
	Minutes ARS Council Meeting 6th Dec 2017(DRAFT)	Sat 09-Dec-17 2:14 PM
	RE: ARS Council Meeting Wednesday 6th December 2017 5.00pm Qld Time	Sat 09-Dec-17 9:11 AM
	RE: Expired membership	Fri 08-Dec-17 2:48 PM
	RE: Financial Report	Fri 08-Dec-17 10:41 AM
	FW: Australian Rangeland Society Fellowship Nomination for Jim Noble	Fri 08-Dec-17 8:50 AM
	RE: Financial Report	Thu 07-Dec-17 8:04 PM
	RE: Financial Report	Thu 07-Dec-17 5:35 PM
	RE: ARS Council Meeting Wednesday 6th December 2017 5.00pm Qld Time	Thu 07-Dec-17 11:57 AM
	RE: Financial Report	Thu 07-Dec-17 8:16 AM
	RE: *URGENT* FW: Membership Inquiry Request No.: WIT 746373 - EBSCO Communication: 914586	Thu 07-Dec-17 7:52 AM
	FW: *URGENT* FW: Membership Inquiry Request No.: WIT 746373 - EBSCO Communication: 914586	Thu 07-Dec-17 6:36 AM
	*URGENT* FW: Membership Inquiry Request No.: WIT 746373 - EBSCO Communication: 914586	Thu 07-Dec-17 2:29 AM

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

Moved: Don Burnside

Seconded: Megan Munchenberg

Carried

5. Business Arising from Correspondence

- Membership cheque received from State Library of NSW to be deposited by secretary into the ARS bank account. Don provided ARS bank account details for Bob to deposit the cheque. **(Bob to deposit)**

6. Reports

6.1 Finance Report (Don)

Overall financial situation for year ended 31 December 2017

Our overall financial situation for calendar 2017 is shown in **Table 1**. At 31 December 2017, net assets (by my calculation) were \$141,770. This compares very favourably with the position at the end of 2016 when we had assets of \$89,527. Note: these figures have not yet been audited.

Normal income and expenses

Normal income from membership, interest, journal and other sources for calendar year 2017 was \$42,940. Normal expenses, mainly from journal production, marketing and honoraria were \$62,292, resulting in an operating loss from normal activities of \$19,352. This is compared to a loss from normal operations in 2016 of \$29,132.

The improved result in 2017 was due to increased membership income, reduced communication costs (resulting from the move from Chorus call to Webex), and lower travel grant expenditure.

Overall financial situation for year-to-date (31 January 2018)

Our overall financial position for the year to date is shown in **Table 2**. Membership payments for 2018 are coming in at an acceptable rate, with monthly reminders being sent to those who have not paid. At the end of December 2017 we had a credit with the ATO of \$4,324 which has been received early in February.

No further conference income is expected, but it is anticipated that there is still about \$9,000 in expenses to be paid. Journal publishing costs in 2018 will decrease from \$29,091 to \$18,182 (GST excl.) in 2018 which represents a significant saving for normal operations.

Conference income and expenses

Final figures for the conference are not yet in, and as well some of the income and expenses being accounted for in 2016. However, as shown in **Table 3** it is clear that the profit from the conference has exceeded all expectations, with the profit being an estimated \$60,000 overall. Major contributing factors have been better than expected sponsorship as shown in **Table 4** (thanks to Kate Forrest and her team), very good budgeting and cost control (thanks to Peter Marin and Lisa Pearson), and the decision to reduce conference length by one day, while maintaining registration fees at the level charged in 2015. The result has put the society in a good position for the coming years.

Table 1. Overall financial situation for year ended 31 December 2017

INCOME	Actual Jan 1 to Dec 31 (GST excl)		Comments
	Ordinary operating	Conference	
Total ARS Membership Income	\$26,015		Some 2017 memberships paid before 1 Jan 2017. Total of 2017 memberships = \$17,953. \$4,603 paid in advance for 2018 and 2019 memberships. \$3,459 paid for 2018 memberships
Total Conference income		\$196,138	\$79,800 sponsorship, \$137,475 registration. Note some sponsorship (\$4,545) 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, and \$2,520 in Royalties from CSIRO.
Interest income	\$487		
GST Refund	\$1,259		
Miscellaneous income	\$2,659		\$2,000 refund paid by Graeme Tupper for project unable to be completed
TOTAL INCOME	\$42,940	\$196,138	
EXPENSES			
Bank service charges	\$1,549		Mainly related to conference registrations.
Stamp duty	\$127		
Postage and delivery	\$113		
Professional fees	\$1,440		
Software expenses	\$505		
Membership management	\$2,500		Membership Officer 2016 honorarium. No 2017 payment
Supplies	\$727		
Marketing and promotion (website, travel grants, social media support)	\$10,053		Includes \$2,380 for website maintenance/development, \$3,000 for website manager 2016 and 2017 honoraria, \$1,364 for travel grant, \$1,062 for social media support (Wright), \$2,115 for social media editor (Marshall).
Conference expenses		\$113,376	Still some costs to come in (estimated \$9,000).
Journal expenses	\$33,091		Two payments to CSIRO (\$14,545). EiC honorarium (\$4000)
Newsletter costs	\$3,500		Editor honorarium (\$2,500) plus payment for indexing RMN and assisting with social media (\$1,000)
Council costs	\$3,391		mainly communication costs
Corporate costs	\$47		ASIC fees
Honoraria (Publications Chair, Book keeper)	\$5,250		Ron Hacker - Publications Chair, Don Heylen - book keeper
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$62,292	\$113,376	
PROFIT/ LOSS	-\$19,352	\$82,762	Estimated conference profit will be \$60,000 (excl GST). Over \$14,000 of costs included in 2016 figures
PROFIT/ LOSS TOTAL		\$63,410	
Balance at 31 December 2017			
Operating Cheque Account 8347	\$257		
Conference Account 8363	\$9,923		
Savings Account 8721	\$123,687		
Membership Account 3504	\$303		
Total cash	\$134,170		
Outstanding accounts receivable and payable			
Income not yet banked (RRR Special Issue)	\$16,600		
Current liabilities not yet paid (conference expenses)	-\$9,000		
Tax payable			
Net assets	\$141,770		

Table 2. Overall financial situation for year-to-date (31 January 2018)

INCOME	Jan 1 to Jan 31 2018 (GST excl)	Comments
Total ARS Membership Income	\$5,650	A total of \$12,610 in memberships received for 2018 memberships (some received before 31 December and as part of 2017-19 payments)
Total Conference income	\$2,941	All conference income is now in
Journal income (special issues and CSIRO dividends)	\$16,600	RRR Special Issue (University of New England)
Interest income	\$43	
GST Refund		
Miscellaneous income		
TOTAL INCOME	\$25,233	
EXPENSES		
Bank service charges	\$76	
Stamp duty		
Professional fees		
Software expenses		
Membership management		
Supplies		
Marketing and promotion (website, travel grants, social media support)	\$264	Heidi Wright (\$132 per month) for social media services
Conference expenses		still conference costs to come in (estimated \$9,000)
Journal expenses		
Newsletter costs		
Council costs	\$106	Webex
Corporate costs		
Honoraria (Publications Chair, Book keeper)		
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$446	
PROFIT/ LOSS	\$24,788	

Balance of Accounts at 31 January 2018	actual
Operating Cheque Account 8347	\$346
Conference Account 8363	\$12,970
Savings Account 8721	\$147,190
Membership Account 3504	\$765
Petty cash conference	\$500
Total cash	\$161,770.54
Outstanding accounts receivable and payable	
conference expenses	-\$9,000.00
Tax owed by ATO	\$4,324.00
Net assets	\$157,094.54

Table 3. Port Augusta ARS Conference

ARS Events Budget							
Port Augusta ARS Conference							
			Expected budget		Actuals		Variance
Income							
<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	
Total		265	\$144,700.00	254	\$137,475.00	\$(7,225.00)	
Sponsorship Sought			\$65,000.00				
Other (refer to Table 2. below)					\$83,026.50		
Total sponsorship confirmed					\$83,026.50	\$18,026.50	
<i>Other</i>							
Total Income			\$209,700.00		\$220,501.50	\$10,801.50	
Expenses							
<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		\$5,394.55	\$105.45	
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		\$10,921.82	\$7,778.18	
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		\$6,663.16	\$2,786.84	
Printing, photocopying etc	\$25.00	210	\$5,250.00		\$4,925.73	\$324.27	
Total Variable			\$77,380.00		\$61,631.82	\$15,748.18	
<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		\$4,022.10	\$377.90
Audio visual hire	\$10,330.00	1	\$10,330.00		\$8,205.95	\$2,124.05
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		\$58,040.00	-\$1,010.00
Merchant Fees & Bank Charges	\$3,000.00		\$3,000.00		\$1,245.20	\$1,754.80
Total Fixed			\$111,180.00		\$92,096.51	\$19,083.49
Total Expenses			\$188,560.00		\$153,728.33	\$34,831.67
Surplus before GST liability			\$21,140.00		\$66,773.17	
Less GST liability			\$1,921.82		\$6,070.29	
Surplus net of GST			\$19,218.18		\$60,702.88	
F is Food; B is Beverage; E is Entertainment						

Table 4. Port Augusta Sponsorship

Port Augusta Sponsorship Funding Table							
Sponsor	Amount	GST	Total	Date Invoiced	Date Received	Inv No.	Notes
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	1-Apr-17	14-Apr-17	Conf52	
Outback Communities Authority	5,000.00	500.00	5,500.00	1-Apr-17	28-Apr-17	Conf53	
Rangelands NRM Alliance	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	3-Aug-17	13-Sep-17	Conf59	
CSIRO	5,000.00	500.00	5,500.00	3-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	1-Sep-17	27-Sep-17	Conf65	
Bush Heritage	5,000.00	500.00	5,500.00	4-Sep-17	21-Sep-17	Conf68	
Spencer Gulf Cities	1,000.00	100.00	1,100.00	18-Sep-17	26-Sep-17	Conf72	
Port Augusta City Council	2,858.18	285.82	3,144.00	8-Jan-18	11-Jan-18	Conf84	Reimbursement of Expense for Mayoral Reception
Port Augusta City Council	82.50	0.00	82.50	8-Jan-18	11-Jan-18	Conf84	Limited Liquor licence for Mayoral Reception
Sponsorship Total	75,486.13	7,540.37	83,026.50				
Other Invoices							
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 Recovery 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)
Exhibition Booths							
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	
Booth Total	2636.39	263.61	2,900.00				

Discussion from financial report:-

- Travel and study grants can be re-advertised for this year
- ARS Port Augusta Conference
 - Spectacular effort by the organising committee
 - Significant savings were made on the conference as it was one day shorter than in previous years.
 - The “lightening sessions” were run in lieu of the extra day.
 - Most people could travel to and from Port Augusta inside one week due to the shorter program
 - Excellent financial outcome
- Costs of publishing TRJ have been significantly reduced and may become cost neutral ie will not require the profit from the biennial ARS conference to cross-subsidise its production.

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 had 193 members who were financial at 31 December 2017. 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. There is a trend for people to switch from the ‘hardcopy journal’ to the ‘e-journal’ category and we would expect that trend to continue. Our publisher, CSIRO tells us this is a growing trend across all their publications.

Membership at the end of 2017

Category	Hardcopy Journal + RMN	E-journal + RMN	RMN only	Total
Paying members	118	46	29	193
Complimentary*	5	39	0	44
Institutional subscribers	11	79	0	90
Total	134	164	29	327

* There were 50 complimentary members at the end of 2017, but 6 of these volunteered membership subs for 2017.

Non-financial members

There are 27 people who were financial members in 2016, but did not renew their memberships for calendar 2017. Unfortunately, they have been 'cut adrift', but it will be easy enough for people in that category to rejoin as a new member. They will be invited to do so via an email to all of the 'inactive members' – being people who have been members at some stage over the last few years (n = 189).

Complimentary members

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), and Associate Editors of the Journal. We currently have 26 complimentary members in these categories.

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 8 students who received one year complimentary memberships (for 2017) at the IRC in Saskatoon, and at the *Restore, Revegetate, Regenerate* Conference in New England will convert to paid memberships for 2018 and beyond. We currently have 9 complimentary members who have won prizes at recent conferences.

There were also some members of the Organising Committee for the Port Augusta Conference who were complimentary members for 2017, but that membership lapsed at the end of the year. However, they have been sent renewal notices in the hope they will join as paid members.

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 have been sent renewal notices. Three year memberships are again a renewal option. Renewals as at 19 February are shown below. Eight members have taken up 2018-2020 memberships, giving a total of 29 members who have 'multi-year memberships'.

Membership at 19 February 2018

Category	Hardcopy Journal + RMN	E-journal + RMN	RMN only	Total
Paying members 2017	118* (69**)	46* (23**)	29* (7**)	193* (99**)
New members to date in 2018	2			2
Complimentary***	5	29	0	34
Institutional subscribers	11	79	0	90
Total	136 (87)	164 (130)	29 (7)	329 (224)

* 2017 members to pay in 2018

** number paid as at 19 February 2018

*** there are currently 35 complimentary members, but one has volunteered to pay

Discussion on the Membership report

- Payment system is working well
- Membership payments are still trickling in
- Paid life membership at a concessional rate is worth investigating for non-working members (**Don to investigate**)
- There is an opportunity to increase ARS membership in Central Asia when the Mongolian special edition of TRJ is published

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 14 February 2018. The following matters are forwarded for Council's information and consideration.

a) **The Rangeland Journal**

Volume 39 (2017) has been completed and ran to 567 pages, with Issues 5 and 6 being combined as the Restore, Regenerate. Revegetate Special Issue. No additional charges for pages in excess of 600 will thus be incurred for 2017. The Mongolian grasslands Special Issue, scheduled for publication in 2017, will most likely form issue 2 of 2018. This issue has experienced considerable problems with English language requirements and some aspects of the science presented. Combining issues 5 and 6 of volume 39 will provide some additional flexibility in terms of meeting publication schedules for 2018, and perhaps even 2019. No special issue has yet been contracted for 2019.

The publishing contract for 2018-22 has not yet been returned from CSIRO Publishing after the last round of minor changes. The process of obtaining signatures has been disrupted by the Christmas-New Year holiday period but I hope the matter will be finalised before the next Council meeting.

Several mock-ups have been provided by CSIRO Publishing for a modified cover design aimed at bringing the ARS logo onto the front cover (it is currently on the back cover). The PC, by majority vote, settled on a design which places the ARS logo in the top right corner of the box, below the volume and issue details, with both the logo and colour bar (containing the word 'The') in ochre. No other changes are proposed apart from a minor wording change to the last line, to read 'particularly in arid regions' rather than 'especially in arid regions'. At the time of writing I do not have an example of this design (which is a composite of some of those proposed) to include with this report. However, the lay out can be easily visualised and so it is recommended to Council. I would like to have this design agreed in time for issue 1 of 2018 if possible.

Recommendation 1. That Council approve the new cover design for *The Rangeland Journal*, as described in this report.

b) **Range MANAGEMENT Newsletter**

Planning for Issue 1 of 2018 is underway.

c) **web site**

Camilla Osborne agreed, in a telephone conversation just before Christmas, to step down as Web Site Editor as soon as a suitable replacement could be found, and in the meantime to progress a number of agreed commitments. However, I had not been able to contact her prior to the last PC meeting and no action was apparent on the web site. Following the PC meeting I was able to contact her by Facebook, following several unsuccessful attempts by email and phone. Despite an apparent lack of action Camilla has loaded all of the biennial conference proceedings scanned by Global Rangelands (University of Arizona) onto the web site. However, they are currently in the 'back end' of the site, and not visible to the public. Nevertheless, we now have a complete set of conference proceedings on the web site, including the whole document and individual papers.

Via a Google drive created by Camilla both Jocelyn Davies and I have been able to download all of the files received from Global Rangelands onto our hard discs so the material is now secure.

We are currently awaiting advice from Fat Beehive on how best to bring this material into the public domain. We are faced with the same issue in relation to the RMN index which Noelene Duckett has compiled. It appears that in order to make the index, and presumably also the conference proceedings, available to search engines we may need to install a 'library function' on the site. However, at this time I am not in a position to advise the cost of this, or the size of the task involved in entering the conference files (several hundred) and the RMN index. Fat Beehive has been frustratingly slow in responding to queries on this matter. Suffice to say at this time that the task of finally bringing all conference proceedings, papers and RMN articles into a searchable state on the web site may exceed what we can reasonably expect from the Web Site Editor and may need to be the subject of a specific contract.

The files received from Global Rangelands also contained five proceedings of the US-Australia Rangeland Panel which operated in the early 1970's. While it would be desirable to have these proceedings on our site all of these folders contain a scanning error and the files are mostly unusable. It may be possible to link to these proceedings on the Global Rangelands site but a resolution of the matter will wait until the way forward with the conference proceedings and the RMN index is clarified.

Noelene Duckett has agreed to act as Web Site Editor until a replacement for Camilla can be found. I expect that she will receive the appropriate Honorarium for the time that she fulfils this role. The position has been advertised already on social media, with one response, but it is unclear at this time if this will result in a recommendation to Council.

Recommendation 2. That Noelene Duckett be paid the Web Site Editor's Honorarium (in addition to the RMN Editor's Honorarium) whilst Acting Web Site Editor (from 14 February 2018).

d) social media

No major issues to report. A more detailed report will be circulated to the PC by Jodie Ward out-of-session.

e) General

Defining the role of the Publications Committee

The Articles and Memorandum of Association (as amended October 2012) provide no specific role for the Publications Committee, and the only responsibilities reserved to Council are to appoint editors for the Society's publications and to provide direction as to the general form of the Journal. These functions are defined in clause 24 which states:

(a) The Council may appoint from time to time persons to be the Editors of the Society's publications on such terms and conditions as it may decide.

(b) The Editor of the Journal shall be responsible for the scientific content of the Journal, and shall be subject to the directions of the Council as to the general form of the Journal.

The only other clause which deals with the Society's publications is clause 23 which states, in part, that

(e) The Council shall appoint biennially a Publications Committee consisting of the Editors for the Journal, Newsletter and Website, and such other members (not necessarily being members of the Council) as the Council may decide.

(f) The members of the Publications Committee shall hold office for three years after their appointment or last reappointment, except that the Council may at any time terminate the appointment of any one or more of the members of the Committee.

Given that the Society's media activities across all platforms are now relatively complex, it is opportune to define administratively the responsibilities of the Publications Committee in order that the management of these activities can proceed efficiently.

To this end the Publications Committee recommends that its role should include:

1. Appointment of Associate Editors and Advisory Editors of *The Rangeland Journal*. Council should be advised of new appointees to these roles, and appointees should receive a letter of welcome

from the President. However, appointees would commence duties on acceptance of an invitation, specifying the terms and conditions of the appointment, issued by the Publications Committee;

2. Managing the day-to-day production of the Society's publications consistent with contractual obligations (e.g. with the publisher of *The Rangeland Journal*) and any directives issued by Council;
3. Managing the tendering and negotiation of contracts necessary for the production of the Society's publications (e.g. for publication of *The Rangeland Journal*, publication of Special Issues, and provision of web site support), and recommending draft contracts to the President for signature on behalf of the Society;
4. Making recommendations to Council regarding the appointment of Editors-in-Chief of *The Rangeland Journal*, and Editors of *Range Management Newsletter*, the web site and social media accounts, and the terms and conditions of these appointments;
5. Developing and modifying as required the Role Statements for positions related to the Society's publications (Publications Committee member, Associate Editor, Advisory Editor, Editor-in-Chief, RMN Editor, Web Site Editor, Social Media Editor);
6. Providing a report to each Council meeting describing the condition of the Society's publications and advising of actions taken under its agreed responsibilities;
7. Any other actions directed by the Council.

Recommendation 3. That Council consider these recommendations and accept or amend them as appropriate.

Appointment of Mr Daryl Green to the Publications Committee

A vacancy has existed on the Publications Committee (PC) for some time. At its meeting on 14 February 2018 the PC unanimously agreed that Mr Daryl Green would be an excellent appointment and that I should approach him to ascertain his interest. I have done so today and Daryl has indicated his willingness to accept an appointment. Daryl has a long professional history in the Australian rangelands, specifically in NSW, through his career with the NSW Soil Conservation Service and its successors and, for some years prior to his recent retirement, as General Manager of the Western Catchment Management Authority. He is a long term member of the ARS and a regular participant in biennial conferences, including those held since his retirement. A copy of his CV is attached. Plans for overseas travel would prevent Daryl from contributing to the committee's deliberations until mid-year but this is not a serious impediment.

Recommendation 4. That Council appoint Mr Daryl Green to the Publications Committee on the usual terms and conditions.

Actions from Publications Committee Report

Motion: Recommendation 1. That the ARS Council approve the new cover design for *The Rangeland Journal*, as described in this report.

Moved: Don Burnside

Seconded: Bob Shepherd

Carried

Motion: Recommendation 2. That Noelene Duckett be paid pro-rata the Web Site Editor's Honorarium (in addition to the RMN Editor's Honorarium) whilst Acting Web Site Editor (from 14 February 2018).

Moved: Don Burnside

Seconded: Bob Shepherd

Carried

Motion: Recommendation 3. That the recommendation is accepted with incorporation of changes indicated:-

1. Appointment of Associate Editors and Advisory Editors of *The Rangeland Journal*. Council should be advised of new appointees to these roles, and appointees should receive a letter of welcome from the President. However, appointees would commence duties on acceptance of an invitation, specifying the terms and conditions of the appointment, issued by the Publications Committee;
2. Managing the day-to-day production of the Society's publications consistent with contractual obligations (e.g. with the publisher of *The Rangeland Journal*) and any directives issued by Council;

3. Managing the tendering and negotiation of contracts necessary for the production of the Society's publications (e.g. for publication of The Rangeland Journal, publication of Special Issues, and provision of web site support), and recommending draft contracts to the President for signature on behalf of the Society;
4. Making recommendations to Council regarding the appointment of Editors-in-Chief of *The Rangeland Journal*, and Editors of *Range Management Newsletter*, the web site and social media accounts, and the terms and conditions of these appointments;
5. Managing the tendering and negotiation of:-
 - a) Routine contracts necessary for the production of the Society's publications (e.g. the publication of Special Issues), and recommending draft contracts to the President for consideration and signature on behalf of the Society
 - b) Non-routine contracts for the production of the Society's publications (e.g. choosing a publisher for The Rangeland Journal, or for on-line internet services and support) in collaboration with Council to consider the strategic needs of the Society, and recommending draft contracts to the President for consideration and signature on behalf of the Society
6. Providing a report to each Council meeting describing the condition of the Society's publications and advising of actions taken under its agreed responsibilities;
7. Any other actions directed by the Council.

Moved: Don Burnside

Seconded: Bob Shepherd

Carried

Motion: Recommendation 4. That the ARS Council appoints Mr. Daryl Green to the Publications Committee on the usual terms and conditions.

Moved: Don Burnside

Seconded: Megan Munchenberg

Carried

Motion: That the Publication Committee report be accepted.

Moved: Bob Shepherd

Seconded: Don Burnside

Carried

7. General/New Business:

- a. **Travel/study grants.** The availability of these two member benefits to be mentioned in the next edition of the RMN
- b. **2019 ARS Conference.** An initial report be requested for the next ARS Council meeting after a phone hook-up between David Phelps, Ken Hodgkinson & Mark Stafford-Smith
- c. **2024 IRC.** Enlist financial support for the 2024 IRC from the Federal Government during the 2019 ARS Conference in Canberra
- d. **Mark Stafford-Smith Award.** Mark received a Medal for Lifetime Achievement award that recognises individuals who have a record of sustained and meritorious achievements in science, technology and innovation or the support of science, technology and innovation. **(Don to write an article for the RMN)**
- e. **Survival of Rangeland-based NRM Groups.** NRM groups are considering merging to reduce overhead costs. This is particularly a big problem in the rangeland NRM groups due to significant funding reductions. Examples include:-
 - SW Qld NRM, Qld Murray Darling Basin and Condamine Alliance.
 - Non-Great Barrier Reef Catchment NRM groups are considering merging with NRM groups that are in GBR Catchments in Qld. Examples include:-
 - Southern Gulf with Terrain NRM (Qld Wet Tropics) and Cape York NRM.
 - Desert Channels Qld with Fitzroy Basin Association and Burnett Mary Regional Group
 - Southern Gulf NRM with NQ Dry Tropics NRM
 - Similar considerations are being made in other states with rangeland regions

Motion: That the ARS Council write to the relevant State Governments and the Federal Government about the underfunding of rangeland-based NRM groups using Queensland as an example and specifically the Southern Gulf NRM to demonstrate the current situation. The letter is also to be sent to the Ecological Society of Australia, Bush Heritage Australia, the North Australian Beef Research Council and other relevant bodies.

Moved: Megan Munchenberg

Seconded: Don Burnside

Carried

Assistance is to be sought from Andrew Ash in the composition of this letter. A draft is to be circulated to ARS Council members before the final copy is sent.

8. Council meeting dates for 2018

- 11th April
 - 30th May (AGM)
 - 11th July
 - 12th September
 - 21st November
- (**Note:** all of these dates are Wednesdays)

9. Next meeting of Council:

5.00 pm (Qld time) Wednesday 11th April 2018

10. Meeting close: 7.45pm

LIST OF ACTIONS:-

- A. **ARS Strategic Plan (continuing)**
- B. **The RMN** - Compile a list of possible outlets for RMN articles across all rangeland areas, with the key target audience to be pastoralists, NRM groups, Pastoral Boards, Bush Heritage (and other like-minded organisations), extension organisations, etc **(all Council members to action)**
- C. **2024 IRC bid** - Use the RMN as a vehicle to call for interest in being on a 2024 IRC organizing Committee **(Bob to action)**
- D. **2024 IRC bid** - Request to be re-sent to Dana Kelly for key points that could be distributed via social media to enlist interest in forming an Organising Committee for a 2024 IRC bid **(Bob to action)**
- E. **Adelaide Convention Centre** – a brief report to be written and circulated to ARS Council members after David’s 2017 visit **(David to action)**
- F. **International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists** – item to remain on agenda for future updates **(on standby)**
- G. **ARS awards** - Additional categories of award to be considered eg honour board – **(on standby)**
- H. **Publications Committee** - letters were written to new members Ann Waters-Bayer & Jenny Silcock. Secretary to obtain copies from David Phelps **(David to action)**
- I. **Role Statements for Publications Committee Members** - A suitable motion is to be developed by email for consideration by Council over the next 10 days. **(Bob to action)**
- J. **Congratulatory letter to Port Augusta ARS Conference Organising Committee** - A thank you letter will be sent when the final conference report is available. **(Bob & David to action)**
- K. **Updating the 1984 book “Management of Australia’s Rangelands”** - Send a copy of Ron Hacker’s email to ARS Council members **(David to action)**
- L. **Associate Editors of The Rangeland Journal** - Appointment letters to Prof. Graciela Metternicht and Dr. Steven Bray have been written – check that they have been sent **(David to action)**
- M. **State Library of NSW membership cheque** – To be deposited by secretary into the ARS bank account. **(Bob to action)**
- N. **ARS travel and study grants** – These grants can be re-advertised in the RMN for this year **(Bob to action)**
- O. **Paid ARS Life Membership** – This option is to be investigated for non-working members at a concessional rate **(Don to action)**
- P. **Roles of the Publications Committee**
 - Recommendation 3: item 3 to be redrafted **(David to action)**
 - Recommendation 3: item 5 to be redrafted **(Don to action)**
- Q. **Publications Committee appointment** - Mr. Daryl Green to appointed on the usual terms and conditions. **(Ron to action)**
- R. **ARS Conference Canberra 2019** - An initial report be requested for the next ARS Council meeting after a phone hook-up between David Phelps, Ken Hodgkinson & Mark Stafford-Smith **(David to action)**
- S. **Mark Stafford-Smith Award** – An article is to be written for the RMN **(Don to action)**
- T. **Underfunding of rangeland-based NRM groups** – Draft a letter to be sent to state & federal governments based on Qld & Southern Gulf NRM as a case in point. **(Bob to action with supporting data provided by Megan)**