



The Australian Rangeland Society

Council meeting No. 204

MINUTES

4pm Queensland Time Thursday 28 January 2010 via Teleconference

1. **Present:** Peter Johnston, Carolyn Ireland, Kate Masters, Graeme Tupper, Larissa Lauder, John Taylor,

Apologies: Peter Marin

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting** (No. 203 26 November 2009 by teleconference) approved and signed. Moved Peter Johnston, Seconded John Taylor, Carried.

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

- Mark Alchin needs to renew his membership before taking on the position. Remove item from Agenda.
- Honoraria were discussed again, Peter J to contact recipients.
- New producer member's competition. There have been no applications. Graeme suggested it be brought to the attention of the Bourke Conference Committee. Graeme to liaise with Darrel and Russel.
- Bourke Conference Organising Committee. Met last Friday. Graeme on a subcommittee which drew up a list of people to approach for keynote speakers – while this is looking more promising the Committee is keen to get it sorted out asap. John to look for potential speakers when he is in the US. John to give feedback in a few weeks. New brochure (call for abstracts) will be out soon and copies are to go with John to the US. It will also be published on the website. The conference brochure is to go out in March.
- Council meeting calendar for 2010 – Carolyn to send out dates for approval by Council Members.
- Creation of new Fellows. Carolyn combined all the ideas using John's paper as a template and circulated it to members. Council agreed that it looks good but questioned if there should be honorary membership or other privileges? Peter J to circulate some words to Council for the award. Graeme to follow up on Alan Wilson and Richard Condon. The new guidelines for fellows (when available) should be published on the Personal Development Webpage.
- Bookkeeper for the Society. Leave on the Agenda.
- Website.
 - Council Members' details have been removed from website.
 - Peter J, Peter M, Larissa, Kate, Annabel and Graeme to provide Ken H with a short biography for publication on the Council Webpage.
 - Ken H still looking for a website manager – needs to be advertised in the next RMN again. Try Rural Women's networks. Carolyn to approach Ken for an estimate of time commitment, remuneration (honoraria) and what needs to be done. Kate to approach her website person, Jess.
 - Council's webpage. Agendas, minutes and calendar of meetings to be included. Carolyn to forward to Ken from January 2010.

- o Council agreed that the electronic archive was a good idea – Peter to talk to Ken. Existing historical record in very early business plan – Peter to circulate to Council with regard to putting it on the website.

4. General Business:

4a. Membership – Graeme Tupper:

Renewal through the website – there have been a number of glitches, most of which have been fixed. A large number of renewals have been received. At least 10 new members since the website has been operational. Graeme will send out another reminder in a couple of weeks.

4d. Finance – Peter Marin:

In the absence of Peter Marin, Carolyn reported on the financial position of the Society. There is approximately \$300K in credit across the three bank accounts. Main account - \$6,516.45, Conference account - \$1,113.61 and Online Saver account – 291,786.82.

4c. Publications Committee – (from Ken Hodgkinson)

Nothing to report.

5. Other General Business:

- a) Application for travel grant/scholarship from Neil McLeod. John Taylor declared a conflict of interest in this application. Peter J moved that this be granted for the sum that Neil requested, Seconded Carolyn, Carried. Peter J to phone Neil to let him know.
- b) Application for travel grant/scholarship from Nicolai Cooper who applied well after the deadline. Peter has responded, he recommended that she apply again next year before the deadline. Peter to send copy of this letter to Carolyn.
- c) Global Rangelands Repository. John Taylor declared a conflict of interest in this item. Trying to make Rangeland Information more available by bringing material into one place where it can be accessed and making it easier for people to find resources. FAO behind it; there is Rangeland West portal operating successfully which decided to expand wider. The group is requesting in principal support and some commitment to explore what might be feasible. Participation should not require any cost. Council very supportive to support this in principal and will need to explore the implications for ARS and the CSIRO Publishing. John will seek someone to give a briefing at the Bourke Conference as an agenda item at the General Meeting held at the Conference.
- d) Associate Editor Terms. Ken seeking endorsement from Council on the three recommendations of the Publications Committee. Peter to seek clarification from Ken so that Council can consider it out of session.
- e) AGM must be held between 16 and 31 May each year. Notice to go out to Members by way of the RMN and Website 6 weeks in advance of meeting (by April 1). AGM to be held on Thursday 20 May 2010. Carolyn to let Ken Hodgkinson, Noelene Duckett and Peter Marin know and also draft Notice of Meeting (circulate to Council).
- f) New Members of Council. No members of Council are required to step down as none have served for 8 years. Need to renominate Peter J, Peter M and Graeme who have completed their first four year term. Peter J. will step aside as President at this AGM so we will be seeking a new President. He will be happy to stay on as a General Member.

6. Correspondence:

INWARD

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30-Nov-09	Email	Ken Hodgkinson	Associate Editor's Terms
02-Dec-09	Email	Ken Hodgkinson	Website matters
4-Dec-09	Email	Neil McLeod	Application for ARS Travel and Scholarship grants
21-Dec-09	Email	Nicolai Cooper	Application for ARS Travel and Scholarship grants
13-Jan-10	Email	John Taylor	Global Rangelands Repository

OUTWARD

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02-Dec-09	Email	Ken Hodgkinson	From Carolyn Ireland re: Council Member's email addresses
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7. Next meeting

The next meeting of Council will be held by teleconference on Wed 31 March 2010 at 4 pm Queensland time.