



# *The Australian Rangeland Society*

Council meeting No. 217 – 28 July 2011

## MINUTES

4pm Queensland Time by Teleconference

1. **Present:** John Taylor, Carolyn Ireland, Larissa Lauder, Graeme Tupper, Ben Forsyth, Annabel Walsh (from 4.20 pm)  
**Apologies:** Kate Masters and Peter Marin
2. **Minutes of the two previous meetings** Council Meeting 214, 17 March 2011 and Out of Session Meeting 216, 5 July 2011 both by teleconference were approved – Moved John, Seconded Carolyn, Carried. Subject to corrections being made re Meeting 216.
3. **Business arising from the minutes:**
  - Professional Affiliation and Alliance Opportunities, Peter J to write to them. Remove from Agenda.
  - Publications Committee to submit a concise Policy and Guidelines and Schedule of fees for Advertising in ARS Publications to Council for approval. Guidelines will come from CSIRO Publishing via the Publications Committee – John to talk to Ken.
  - Global Rangelands Repository. A letter finalising our arrangements has been sent to Barbara Hutchison. Ken Hodgkinson is exploring costs of scanning Conference Proceedings.
  - Website requirements – John to talk to Geoff Axford re Rangeland Alliance links for our website.
  - Membership fees – report from Graeme on behalf of Peter Marin. Current Newsletter needs to contain our intentions about fees for next year. Only change is Newsletter available at extra cost to members who want printed copy. Subscriptions to remain the same. Peter's financial analysis report to be deferred until meeting with him.
  - Changing articles to reflect the timeframe for calling meetings (currently 6 weeks) and advertising meetings on the website or by email. Carolyn to send changes for comment by Council and then put the item onto the 2012 AGM agenda.
  - Proposal from CSIRO to list a paper by Gary Bastin in an Institutional Repository. Wait for a recommendation from Publications Committee. Carolyn to remind Ken by sending the email from November 2010 to him again.
  - Associate Editor Concessions (free subscription). John has spoken with individual involved. Remove from Agenda.
  - ARS bookkeeper position – item deferred. John to talk to Peter about this again with a view to setting up a meeting to discuss several financial-related items. Hold over until meeting with Peter.
  - Bourke Conference Final Report. Conference report is very upbeat but there are anomalies in the accounts. Peter needs to take us through the auditor's report and provide an updated financial. This has highlighted a need for Council to take a more direct interest in the planning and management of future conferences. Item deferred until Peter is available for a meeting to explain the situation and

recommend way to minimize in the future. Larissa to send Council a copy of conference comparisons.

- Sponsorship of Stipa Conference and other sponsorship opportunities. John and Larissa were to consider the notion of sponsorship of other events by developing a policy which reviews our Articles of Association and how Sponsorship may benefit the Society. Item on hold and will be discussed at the next meeting.

#### 4. General Business:

##### 4a. Membership – Graeme Tupper:

Membership is 273 active members and 101 Institutional members through CSIRO. Some members have not renewed this year. There have been five new members since March 2011. No responses yet from trade displays at overseas conferences in early 2011.

##### 4b. Finance – John reported for Peter Marin:

In terms of the current financial situation we have a total of about \$246,000 across the three bank accounts. Peter reports a loss of \$33,000 for the period Jan to Jun 2011 but we have had some high expenses including paying some people two years worth of honoraria early in the year, finalizing the Bourke Conference costs and making an initial payment of \$4,000 to the Kununurra Conference organizers. Hold this item over until Peter can address the accounts at a later date.

##### 4c. Publications Committee

No report tabled.

#### 5. New Business:

- CSIRO Publishing was appointed as the publisher of TRJ for 5 years. Carolyn to send the email dated 7 July to Council Members. Remove from Agenda.
- Recommendations from the Publications Committee: Council agreed that the Minutes of the Publication Committee meeting of Tuesday 26 July 2011 be regarded as CONFIDENTIAL.

- *Editor in Chief of TRJ*

The Publications Committee (PC) agreed that candidate Anastasia Markantonatou was not able to be appointed. Discussion then concentrated on John Milne and Tony Pressland. The PC voted in the following way: four votes for John Milne, three votes for Tony Pressland. John Milne was declared the choice of the PC.

**The Publications Committee recommends to Council:** that John Milne is appointed as the next EiC for a period of three years with the option of five. The Publications Committee asked that Council instruct Ken Hodgkinson to offer the position to John Milne should Council accept the recommendation. If John Milne does not accept the offer then Tony Pressland would be a very acceptable appointment. Furthermore, in this event, Ken Hodgkinson does not need to go back to Council before offering the position to Tony Pressland.

**Discussion:** Extra 2 years of contract must be subject to a Performance Agreement and a Performance Review – PC to draft this into the Contract. Performance Targets might include improving the Impact Factor and others the PC believes are critical to the growth of the journal. Council is to feed ideas back to John by next Monday for him to convey to the PC.

**Motion:** Council endorsed the Publications Committee's recommendation that John Milne be appointed for an initial term of three years with the option of five years subject to a Performance Agreement and Performance Review (terms to be drafted by the Publications Committee). Ken Hodgkinson, Chair of the Publications Committee to make the offer to John Milne. Moved/Annabel, Seconded/Graeme, Carried

**Motion:** If John Milne does not accept the position, Council endorsed that the Chair of the Publications Committee is authorised to offer to the position to Tony Pressland with same conditions as those outlined in the Motion above. Moved/Larissa, Seconded/Ben, Carried

Council wishes to record its appreciation of Ken Hodgkinson, Wal Whalley, the rest of the Publications Committee and the Independent Panel for their time and efforts in identifying and selecting the successful candidate.

- *New Associate Editors*

**Recommendation from the Publication Committee:** That two new Associate Editors be appointed for terms of 3 years. These are Dr Ron Hacker in 2012 and Associate Professor Wal Whalley when his successor has been appointed.

**Motion:** Council endorses the Publication Committee's recommendation that two new Associate Editors be appointed for terms of 3 years. These will be Dr Ron Hacker from 2012 and Associate Professor Wal Whalley from when he steps down as EiC and his successor has been appointed. Moved/ Carolyn, Seconded/Graeme, Carried

- IRC in Argentina – report by Carolyn Ireland. Noted and thanked by Council. Remove from Agenda.
- Ken Hodgkinson has advised that he intends to resign as Chair of Publications Committee in Dec 2012. Council noted his intention and asks that the Publications Committee advise Council of the timing and process to appoint a new Chair. Council would like to be able to introduce a new Chair at the Kununurra Conference. John to write to Ken to initiate this.
- Item from AGM: separation of Treasurer/Finance and Audit Officer Roles. Hold over to meeting with Peter Marin.
- Item from AGM: Strategy for Cash Reserves. Hold over until meeting with Peter Marin.
- Kununurra Conference Report from Larissa. This item to be a standing item on the Agenda. Larissa reported the following points:
  - Good progress is being made
  - The organising Committee needs to talk to Peter Marin about several points, particularly a chequebook
  - The draft program is progressing well
  - PCO seems to be "on the ball" and has visited Kununurra
  - The venue has been booked
  - Local Caterers have been contacted
  - PCO has set up a timeline
  - Don Burnside preparing letter to Brendon Grylls for JAT to edit and sign
  - Organising Committee still seeking local people to be involved
  - Ben Forsyth will be the landholder facilitator

- o Looking for an Indigenous facilitator
- o Aiming for \$150K sponsorship. Sponsorship Package under construction and will go out soon

Larissa will keep an eye on progress and will alert Council if she is worried by anything. She will also write a short report to update Council at its meetings. Carolyn to email Council's Conference Package to Ben.

- Information Item: Total Grazing Pressure (TGP) Meeting in Adelaide – Ben. There is an initiative to set up a Forum for TGP. Ben charged with setting up the website [www.grazebook.com](http://www.grazebook.com). What role, if any, should ARS take? Ben to send an email around to Council. Carolyn: Maybe a presentation at the ARS Conference in Kununurra. Larissa thinks this would fit quite well. Ben to provide a paragraph to Larissa for the Organising Committee. Web links on our website? Remove from Agenda.

## 6. Correspondence:

### INCOMING

18-Mar-11	Email	Russell Grant	Bourke Conference Final Report
18-Mar-11	Email	Kate Master	Correspondence re her renomination to Council
21-Mar-11	Email	Wal Whalley	Re Global Rangelands Repository
22-Mar-11	Email	Ben Forsyth	Nomination for Council
24-Mar-11	Email	Russell Grant	Correspondence with JAT re Bourke Conf. Final Report
25-Mar-11	Email	Ken Hodgkinson	Response to news of Fellow Award
04-Apr-11	Email	Wal Whalley	Response to news of Fellow Award
18-Apr-11	Email	Wal Whalley	Message re suspicious Chinese email
09-May-11	Email	Larissa Lauder	Meeting with Kununurra Organising Committee
11-May-11	Email	Russell Grant	Correspondence with JAT re Bourke Finances
11-May-11	Email	Peter Marin	Correspondence re Bourke Finances
13-May-11	Email	Paul Novelly	Some developments on the Kununurra Conference

### OUTGOING

22-Mar-11	Email	Wal Whalley	Award of Fellowship of the ARS
22-Mar-11	Email	Ken Hodgkinson	Award of Fellowship of the ARS
28-Mar-11	Email	Paul Novelly	Questions regarding the Kununurra Conference
06-May-11	Email	Ken Hodgkinson	Requesting response to Global Rangeland repository
06-May-11	Email	Russell Grant/Daryl Green	Questions re finances of Bourke Conference
11-May-11	Email	Paul Novelly	Sending notes taken at a meeting in Rosario
17-May-11	Email	Paul Novelly	Answers to questions about Kununurra Conference
17-Jun-11	Letter	Barbara Hutchinson	Finalising our arrangements with the Global Rangelands Repository
07-Jul-11	Email	CSIRO Publishing	Acceptance of 5 Year Contract with CSIRO

## 7. Next meeting –

Council needs to schedule a meeting with Peter Marin to discuss various financial matters within the next three to four weeks. John will set up this meeting with Peter and ask him for several dates that he can circulate to other Council Members via Carolyn. John has asked that Members of Council make every effort to attend this meeting as the discussions about ARS financial matters are critical.

The next regular meeting of Council will be held by teleconference on 22 September 2011 at 4 pm Queensland Time – Larissa is an apology. The date of this meeting may change.

Meeting closed at 5.45 pm, Queensland time.