



The Australian Rangeland Society

Council meeting No. 222 – 4 April 2012

MINUTES

4pm Queensland Time by Teleconference

1. **Present:** John Taylor, Carolyn Ireland, Graeme Tupper, Annabel Walsh, Peter Marin, Larissa Lauder, Kate Masters
Apologies: Ben Forsyth
2. **Minutes of previous meeting** The Minutes of Council Meeting 221, 9 February 2012 were approved. Moved: Graeme, Seconded: Annabel, Carried
3. **Business arising from the minutes:**
 - A. Concise Policy and Guidelines and Schedule of fees for Advertising in ARS Publications. On hold until CSIRO and Publications Committee provide some guidelines.
 - B. Rangeland Alliance links for our website. John advised that he has had positive replies from 12 Regional NRM Boards. Action: John will forward these links to Russell for the website.
 - C. Changing articles – on hold until the item can be presented to the AGM in May. Notice of Meeting has been published in RMN and on the Website. Publication Committee's request to amend the Articles and Memorandum of Association has been added to the AGM Notice of Meeting.
 - D. Resignation of Ken Hodgkinson as Chair of Publications Committee (PC) in Dec 2012. Ken has sent out a Job Description from the Publications Committee for this and also for the Editor-in-Chief position. John has enquired about the priorities and Ken has responded that all of the responsibilities are important. There is a lack of Selection Criteria. Do we really need them? Moved: John Taylor that these Job Descriptions be accepted by Council and Publications Committee move forward. Seconded: Annabel, Carried. Action: Carolyn to inform the Chair of the Publications Committee.
 - E. Current financial position. Action: Peter still to provide a consolidated list of abnormal items to Council – he will progress this over Easter.
 - F. Survey of Membership and Strategy for Cash Reserves. Survey has been initiated by John and uploaded on the Website. Cost of survey is \$220/year for a Gold Subscription which enables us to do other surveys over a 12 month period. Russell will send out an email reminder about one month from now.
 - G. Sponsorship opportunities. On hold until we have feedback through the Membership survey.

- H. Council and Director Development. On hold until the Membership Survey completed.
- I. Kununurra Conference (standing item on agenda) –
 - a. Minutes of Organising Committee 23 March 2012
 - i. Request from Sandra van Vreeswyk for more funds. Requested an updated budget on a regular basis. This item has been closed off in the 23 March 2012. Action: Peter and John will seek some clarification on this matter.
 - ii. Face book page for conference and afterwards for the ARS. This has been actioned. Jenny to set up one for the ARS and use it for the Conference and then hand it over to the Society.
 - iii. Ron Hacker has accepted the role Guest Editor for Conference Special Issue.
 - iv. 30th July closing date for papers
 - v. Registration brochure appears to only be available in electronic form – this may limit the distribution. Difficulties in getting electronic only out to all members and others. There is still value in having a printed version. They could be handed out at field days etc. Action: John to seek clarification that there will be hard copies available, not just electronic.
- J. Copyright information forwarded to Ken by Peter. Basically, anything we produce under the banner of the ARS is automatically copyrighted. This has answered his questions and he has now sent five sets of Conference Proceedings to the Global Rangeland Repository.
- K. Advisory Editors – Ken has circulated a draft letter for appointment of Advisory Editors to Council for endorsement. These are honorary appointments. John moved: that we endorse the letter and authorise the PC to engage Advisory Editors as suggested, Seconded: Carolyn, Carried.
- L. Reappointment of associate editors Esther Mwangi (does not wish to continue) and Bernard Hubert (wishes to continue). Action: John to ask the PC to offer a renewal of Bernard's term. Action: John to write a letter of thanks to Esther. Moved: John, Seconded: Graeme, Carries
- M. Opening an account with Australia Post. Item closed.
- N. Applications for travel grants/scholarship. Helene Aubault has now qualified for the Travel grant and has accepted it. Item closed.

4. General Business:

A. Membership – Graeme Tupper:

Notices of renewal have gone out by email and some by post. There are 17 new members. ARS now has 203 active members with renewals coming in every day, 189 due to renew (including those who have not renewed for 3 years). The March edition of the RMN included a printed reminder for those who had not renewed. Back fee of \$15 is not being charged until the end of April. There will be a reduction in the printing and postage costs for the RMN next year. Report noted by Council.

B. Finance – Peter Marin:

Current account ~\$17,000. Savings account \$210,823. Conference account \$951. Total \$229,597. Don Heylen, the ARS bookkeeper, has forwarded the accounting paperwork for the AGM to Peter who is preparing these for the Auditor. The 2011 calendar year shows a loss of \$68,000. No income from conferences – all from membership and interest etc. – all of which are lower than previous years. Major expenses \$10,000 in Travel Grants (higher than previous years), ~\$24,000 in conference expenses (both previous year and next year), ~\$26,000 in Honoraria (some people did not put invoices in for the previous year). Total abnormal items

within this amount are around ~\$40,000. Traditionally, conferences used to make around \$20,000 but prior to Burke we had three conferences in a row with massive profits. The Burke conference was probably “back to normal”. This needs to be explained carefully in the AGM papers as our income and expenditure is a very cyclical thing. We need to look at how much we award as Travel Grants and endeavour to bring more “expired” members back to the Society. We are however, still very financially secure. Report noted by Council.

C. Publications Committee

No business.

5. New Business:

- A. Review of Guidelines for Travel Grants and Scholarships. Deferred to the next meeting. Members to read the guidelines and feedback comments to Carolyn and John for rewriting and presentation to Council at the next meeting.
- B. Reimbursement of the Subscription Manager. Asking for one phone line and half of internet – total ~\$75/month. Graham declared a conflict of interest and retired from the meeting. Members of Council agreed that this was a reasonable request. John moved: Council agrees that we provide internet and phone connection to the cost of \$75/month and that this be reviewed in 12 months, Seconded Carolyn, Carried. Graham rejoined the meeting.

6. Correspondence:

INWARDS

<i>MEETING #222</i>			
20-Feb-12	Email	Ken Hodgkinson	Reporting progress with Global Rangelands Repository
01-Mar-12	Email	Noelene Ducket	Thanks for Travel Grant
01-Mar-12	Email	Helene Aubault	Thanks for Travel Grant
06-Mar-12	Email	Ken Hodgkinson	Motion from Publications Committee proposing changes to Section 23 of the Articles
23-Mar-12	Email	Kate Bedard	Re conferences proceedings - forwarded to Russell Grant
29-Mar-12	Email	Ken Hodgkinson	Re Advisory Editors

OUTWARDS

<i>MEETING #222</i>			
23-Feb-12	Email	Ken Hodgkinson	From Peter Marin re Copyright
19-Feb-12	Email	Organising Committee K12	From John Taylor re: 1) change of Larissa to Ben as Rep. 2) requirements of Council at Conference. 3) Request for further funds
28-Feb-12	Email	Noelene Ducket	Awarding a \$2000 Travel Grant
28-Feb-12	Email	Helene Aubault	Awarding a \$2000 Travel Grant
27-Mar-12	Email	All Members	Survey from John Taylor

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting to be held at 37 Pioneer Crescent, Bellbowrie, QLD, 4070 on 23 May 2012 at 5 pm Queensland Time, and by teleconference.

The next meeting of Council will be held by teleconference on 26 July 2012 at 4 pm Queensland Time.

Meeting closed at 5.55 pm, Queensland time.