



The Australian Rangeland Society

Council meeting No. 234

MINUTES

6pm Queensland Time via Teleconference – Wednesday 4 September 2013

1. **Present:** John Taylor (Chair), Carolyn Ireland, Annabel Walsh, David Phelps, Kate Masters
Apologies: Graeme Tupper, Peter Marin, Ben Forsyth
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** The Minutes of Council Meeting 232 on 27 July 2013 and Out of Session Meeting 233 on Tuesday 6 August 2013, both by teleconference, were approved. Moved: Annabel, Seconded: Kate, Carried
3. **Business arising from the minutes:**
 - A. Chair of Publications Committee – Ron Hacker has kindly agreed to accept the lower figure of \$2,500 as an honorarium for the Chair of the Publications Committee. Item closed.
 - B. Member Survey
 - a. Indigenous involvement – Peter – deferred to next meeting
 - b. Future Farmers – Ben – deferred to next meeting
 - c. Council and Director Development – Template/table for capturing Governance training and experience of Council Members has been circulated by John. Add Project Management to this Template. **Action:** John to edit table, Council Members to fill in and send back to John. **Action:** Council Members to scout around for opportunities within their region. **Action:** Suggestion of a one-day Governance Seminar at Alice Springs Conference to be forwarded to the NT Organising Committee.
 - C. 2015 Conference in Alice Springs – April 2015
 - a. Draft Proposal Template and Brochure received from the NT Conference Organising Committee (NTOC). Seed money required. Theme is “Innovation in the Rangelands” but keeping it as broad as possible. All seems to be in order, except the Budget. Need to be sure that the cost of the Conference Centre does not increase the cost to Members too much – a 10% increase would be preferable. Moved: John – That Council accepted the proposal and recommend that Council will advance \$10,000 in seed money to the NTOC. Seconded: Carolyn, Carried. **Action:** Carolyn to inform Peter about forwarding the seed money to NTOC. **Action:** John to inform NTOC of Council’s decision.
 - D. Motion re Rangeland Australia – Ben – deferred to next meeting
 - E. ARS Archive at Middleback Station – Annabel – containers of ARS records have moved to Woodside. Annabel & Carolyn to sort in October-November.
 - F. Rangeland Initiative Meeting – Peter – deferred to next meeting. John advised that the project proposal arising from this meeting has received \$1.5m funding from CfoC.
 - G. Succession Planning: Graeme has circulated a list of current members and also those yet to renew for 2013 which will help with this task. **Action:** defer to next meeting when info on

Council governance skills and experience and a list of past Council members had been compiled. **Action:** Carol to circulate a list of Council Members for the last 10 years.

H. National Library of Australia re archiving of ARS Biennial Conference papers. John has responded positively but has not received a response. Item closed.

4. **General business:**

A. **Membership – Graeme Tupper provided a written report – noted by Council**

ARS now has 221 active members. 48 have not yet renewed for 2013. Graeme also provided a list of all current members. This will be used by Council Members to address the issue of succession planning (see item 3G above).

B. **Finance – Peter Marin – noted by Council**

Carolyn reported for Peter and indicated that the current financial position of the Society remains steady. There is \$206,725.82 across all accounts with \$2,928.03 in the everyday account, \$394.17 in the conference account and \$203,403.62 in the online saver account.

C. **Publications Committee – Ron Hacker – noted by Council**

- i Progress on appointment to run the Twitter site – nothing to report from the Publications Committee. **Action:** John to follow up in November.
- ii Plans for a Rangeland Lecture series in 2013 are still tentative. Dr Milne is intending to organise a series in Europe and it is expected that lectures will be delivered in Canberra and Alice Springs (to be confirmed). Further lectures may be delivered in Brisbane (to be confirmed) and Perth (under consideration). An invitation to organize a lecture in Sydney has been declined. Professor Elena Abraham (Director, Argentine Institute for Research on Arid Lands) has accepted appointment as an Associate Editor of *TRJ* for a three year term commencing 1 July 2013. Ron is not aware of any response from Dr Ashley Sparrow to Council's invitation to accept such an appointment. **Action:** John confirmed that he had issued two email invitations to Dr Sparrow and will follow up with Ken.
- iii Professor Hou Xiangyang, General Director of the Institute of Grassland Research, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences has advised the Editor-in-Chief of his acceptance of the modified proposal for the Special Issue *Social and ecological aspects of grassland use in northern China: Implications for climate change adaptation* that had been accepted by the Publications Committee. The attached contract has been finalised after input from the Editor in Chief and others. Ron asked that the President, or other appropriate officer, sign and date the contract on behalf of the Society and forward a scanned copy to the Editor in Chief for transmission to Professor Hou. The aim is to have the Special Issue published on line by 30 June 2014. This Contract has already been signed by the President. Moved: Carolyn, that Council ratifies the Presidents action, Seconded; Annabel, Carried,

5. **General business:**

A. The signatories for the Conference Bank Account need to be changed. John moved: **“THAT Council approves retaining the current signatories Peter Marin and Carolyn Ireland, removing signatories Sandra Van Vreeswyk and Paul Novelty, and appointing Gary Bastin, David Campbell and Pieter Conradie as signatories to the Conference Bank Account”**. Seconded: David, Carried.

B. Email received from Dr Bek Christensen of TERN (Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network). **Action:** John to email them for more information, referees and a business plan.

- C. Planning for the SA bid for the 2016 Conference (Carolyn and Peter). **Action:** Peter and Carolyn to convene a meeting in November/December. **Action:** David to talk to Vol Norris to advertise at the upcoming Lake Eyre Basin Conference.

6. Correspondence

INCOMING

27-Jun-13	Email	Peter Conradie	Convening a meeting re 2014 Conference in NT
13-Jul-13	Email	Chris Henggeler	A challenge for the rangelands
25-Jul-13	Email	Dr Elena Abraham	Accepting the position of Associate Editor of TRJ
24-Jul-13	Email	Gary Bastin, Bill Lowe	Advice on NT bid for ARS 2014 Conference
26-Jul-13	Email	Pieter Conradie/ Gary Bastin	Council's views on the timing of the NT Conference
25-Jul-13	Email	Peter Marin	Information about the National Rangeland NRM Alliance Stakeholders Workshop
29-Jul-13	Email	Pieter Conradie	ARS Conference deferral to April 2015
31-Jul-13	Email	Larissa Lauder	Response from Larissa re her time on Council
09-Aug-13	Email	Pieter Conradie	Thanks for confirming the new date for the NT ARS Conference as April 2015
23-Aug-13	Email	Bek Christensen	Long-term Plan for Australian Ecosystem Science

OUTGOING

11-Jul-13	Email	Peter Conradie	Response to Convening a meeting re 2014 Conference in NT
24-Jul-13	Email	David Phelps	Welcoming him to his position on Council
24-Jul-13	Email	Paul Novelty	Council's congratulations and thanks to the Kununurra Organising Committee
25-Jul-13	Email	Gary Bastin/Bill Lowe	Response re 2014 ARS Conference in NT
26-Jul-13	Email	Pieter Conradie/ Gary Bastin	Council's views on the timing of the NT Conference
24-Jul-13	Email	Larissa Lauder	Thanks to Larissa for her service to Council
09-Aug-13	Email	Pieter Conradie	Confirming the new date for the NT ARS Conference as April 2015
12-Aug-13	Email	Ron Hacker	Amended Invitation to become Chair of the Publications Committee
19-Aug-13	Email	SA Rangelanders	Invitation to become involved with the planning of the South Australian bid for the 2016 ARS Conference
27-Aug-13	Email	Pieter Conradie/ Gary Bastin	Arrangements re: Conference Cheque Account and signatories

7. Next Meeting

The next Council Meeting will be held by teleconference on Tuesday 3 Dec 2013 at 6 pm Queensland time.