



The Australian Rangeland Society

Council meeting No. 237

MINUTES

6pm Queensland Time on Wednesday 26 March 2014 via Teleconference

1. **Present:** John Taylor (Chair), Carolyn Ireland, David Phelps, Kate Masters, Graeme Tupper, Annabel Walsh, Ben Forsyth

Apologies: Peter Marin

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** The Minutes of Council Meeting 236 on Tuesday 28 January 2014 by teleconference were approved. Moved: Graeme, Seconded: Annabel, Carried.

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

- A. Member Survey

- a. Indigenous involvement – Peter – deferred until next meeting
- b. Future Farmers – Ben has not had the opportunity to move this forward.
- c. Council Governance
 - i. Template/table for capturing Governance training and experience of Council Members has been circulated by Peter to Graeme. **Action:** All to fill in

- B. Strategic Plan.

David has received some comments from John and Carolyn. He would like to start filling out the template and Council agreed with this. Questions arose: Who are we doing this for – Council or Members? Who is going to own it? The next Council may not. How do we engage members and future members? Journals are increasingly open access in the USA and this could present a challenge for the future of TRJ and the Society. David's idea is to base our Strategic Plan on what we have in hand to crystallize our own thought processes and then take it to a broader audience. We do not need another plan that sits on a shelf gathering dust. We should do a SWOT analysis to outline the issues (with a ten minute discussion at each meeting per issue) and plan a way forward. Maybe we should also have a workshop at the Alice Springs Conference. **Action:** David and John to pull trends and issues together in a SWOT matrix for June 24 Meeting, by June 1. **Action:** John and David to identify an issue for discussion at the June 24 Meeting, by June 1. **Action:** All members to look at the drivers and trends paper and submit ideas by 11 April.

- C. 2015 Conference in Alice Springs 12 – 16 April 2015

Preliminary brochure and Minutes of last Organising Committee (OC) meeting circulated to Council. Items of note: Preliminary budget includes \$10,000 for TRJ Special Issue. If there are 200 delegates there could be surplus \$11,000. If there are 250 delegates there could be a surplus of \$27,000. Idea of training workshops has been accepted, but Council to source interest and manage. All the milestones for Planning Committee are on track. Meeting rooms booked for General Meeting and Council Meeting. Next (OC) meeting 24th April. Council Discussion: Need to think seriously about the 40th anniversary of the Society (an item for our next agenda) hopefully at the conference, and possibly at the first barbecue. Preliminary ideas include special edition of RMN, encouraging original members to go to the Conference. Have a 40 year member and a younger member to reflect on the Society, where it has come from and a vision of the future.

Action: Council to give feedback to John about the 40th Anniversary. **Action:** John and Graham to draft an invitation to original members to send with a copy of the Preliminary Brochure. **Action:** Carolyn and Annabel to collate a history of the Journal and have old Journals on display. **Action:** Annabel to write to Wal Whalley to ask about TRJ highlights. **Action:** John to clarify if there are discounts for members of the Society or the intention is to charge non-members more.

D. 2015 Conference in Alice Springs 12 – 16 April 2015

Request for mailing list by Sally Leigo and Ray Bird. Sally thought the alternative of using the website was good but was going to talk to Ray. They have subsequently accepted that notices to members go out through the website. Item closed.

E. Motion re Rangeland Australia

Action: John to review draft report and make factual corrections to the report and forward to Ben (c.c. to Council) and his group for finalization and then preparation of an article for RMN.

F. ARS Archive at Middleback Station – Annabel and Carolyn to sort the ARS records that have moved to Des Coleman's Office at the Waite Institute. Ongoing.

G. Rangeland Initiative Meeting and outcomes – Have received a major grant for a "Rangeland Data Hub". Deferred to the next meeting. **Action:** Peter to chase this up.

H. Succession Planning:

John has written an advert for the March RMN. **Action:** send this to Noelene.

There have been no suggestions of names sent to Carol. **Action:** Members of Council to send names of people to Carolyn by 11 April 2014. **Action:** Ben to outline his thoughts re: paying for services. **Action:** Carolyn to look for role statements in Business Plan and in files and send out to Council. **Action:** Kate and Ben – Write a role statement for a General Member.

I. Planning for the SA bid for the September 2016 Conference – Ongoing. **Action:** Carolyn and Peter to progress this and have a bid up for approval at the Alice Springs Conference in April 2015.

J. Status of Graeme Hand's Travel Grant Application. Mixed response saw John seek further information from his referees. Mongolia has a National Monitoring approach – based on the US ecological sites system - do they need another system? This work of Graeme's could bring a new look at on-the-ground monitoring that the landholders can use. John suggests that we ask Graeme to revamp his proposal to include the National System, and re-submit. Council agreed with John. **Action:** John will draft a letter based on these conversations and ask Graeme to review and re-submit for Council to look at out of session. He needs to be a current member for this to be approved.

K. Letter from Terrestrial Species Conservation Section, Wildlife, Heritage and Marine Division of Federal Department of the Environment asking for a submission about Waterpoints in the Rangeland as a Key Threatening Process. Response sent by deadline pointing out the importance of management of waterpoints. Item closed. The President congratulated David for his excellent private contribution.

L. Emails from and to El Mostafa Darfaoui of the Ministry of Agriculture, Saudi Arabia seeking assistance with FAO study tour. No suggestions received. John contacted ACIAR in February and has not yet received a response. **Action:** Council Members to send suggestions to John by 11 April.

4. **General business:**

A. **Membership – Graeme Tupper – noted by Council**

ARS now has 162 active members. There are 176 who are due to renew – not all of these will renew. There have been problems with the renewal system on the computer because of tightened filtering system by Yahoo. Link have fixed the problem and Graeme has captured most

of the renewals. There are three members of Council who have not renewed – these subscriptions must be paid or they will no longer be able to hold a position on Council.. Alice Springs Organising Committee has 4 financial members of Society, two who have not renewed and the rest are not members! Graeme suggested that we make them Honorary Members at the minimum rate of \$60 in recognition of their contributions to the Society. **Action:** Graeme to write, under John's signature, to give them honorary memberships or invite them to pay for full membership. **Action:** Council Members who are not financial should rectify this before the end of March.

B. Finance – Carolyn for Peter Marin – noted by Council

Position is healthy. There is \$190,620.75 across all accounts with \$16,553.56 in the everyday account, \$7,428.18 in the conference account and \$166,639.01 in the online saver account.

C. Publications Committee – Report from the Chair, Ron Hacker – noted by Council

Special Issue of *The Rangeland Journal* from the Alice Springs Conference

A provisional Editorial Panel comprising Jocelyn Davies (Chair), Digby Race and Boyd Wright (with Steve Morton as a link to the Organising Committee) has agreed to prepare a proposal for production of a Special Issue of TRJ from the Alice Springs conference papers. The group has requested confirmation that funding for the Special Issue will be available from the Society as they are unable to seek separate sponsorship. Early confirmation is desirable to allow the group to proceed with the planning of the Special Issue.

Recommendation:

That Council confirm with the Organising Committee of the Alice Springs conference and the Editorial Panel that funding will be provided to produce the Special Issue of *The Rangeland Journal* based on conference papers

Response from Council:

From the Minutes of the Organising Committee it appears that this amount has already been factored in to the budget. **Action:** Annabel to suggest an organization to sponsor the special edition of TRJ.

Range Management Newsletter Archive

As present the archive of Range Management Newsletter available on the web site includes only issues post-2007, and issues from 1975 and 1976. There is a need to scan the remaining issues, including issues of the Range Assessment Newsletter, the predecessor of the RMN, to complete the archive. A quote has been received from Lex Data, Sydney to undertake the scanning required for a total cost of approximately \$1,180 (inc. GST). With postage charges the total cost is estimated to be approximately \$1,280. This figure is indicative.

Recommendation:

That Council approve the scanning of back issues of RMN and RAN by Lex Data on the basis of the quote provided.

Response from Council:

The quote received by Council has no total figure on it. The recommendation of the Publications Committee was approved by Council up to a cost of \$1300 on production of a completed quote from Lex Data. Motion proposed: Graeme, Seconded: Ben, Carried.

Role Statements for Council Appointments

The PC has agreed on role statements for the Editor, Range Management Newsletter and Member of the Publications Committee, and submitted these to Council for endorsement. These positions are currently listed on the web site under Members Area/Role of Council Appointments but have no attached role statement.

The positions of Membership Officer and Business Manager, The Rangeland Journal, also appear on this page with no attached statement. The former is not the responsibility of the PC. The latter position is redundant, as this role is now fulfilled by CSIRO Publishing, and was removed from the Articles of Association in the 2012 revision.

The position of Editor, ARS web site is also listed on this page but the associated role statement refers to Website Manager (rather than Editor) and has apparently not been signed

off by either the PC or Council since it was drafted on 24 April 2009. The PC is of the view that the title should be Editor, ARS web site to be consistent with RMN.

Recommendation:

That Council

1. approve the role statements for Editor RMN and Member of the Publications Committee and authorise their placement on the web site;
2. approve the current role statement for Website Manager as the role statement for Editor, ARS website, with amendment as required to reflect the change of title;
3. authorise deletion of the position Business Manager, The Rangeland Journal;
4. take steps to prepare a role statement for the Membership Officer.

Response from Council:

Action: Council to review these attachments and provide feedback to John by 11 April. Then back to Council out of session with a response to PC.

Council noted the discussions re: Website Development and the Rangeland Journal Lecture by Joel Brown.

Council also noted that the following two items should be raised with the PC:

1. Open Access and its future impact on TRJ
2. Editor of TRJ's term expires August this year and a recommendation is required ahead of time

Action: John to advise PC of Recommendations

5. **New business:**

- A.** Email from Lachlan Ingram, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, University of Sydney regarding decline of scientists who are undertaking research in grassland science. **Action:** John to respond to say that it is too difficult for us to separate out grassland scientists among our members.
- B.** Email from Sarah Watson re Travel Grants. Has been a member since Dec 2013, is a part time student, and has enquired if she can apply for a grant? Council needs to stick rigidly to the published guidelines. **Action:** Carolyn to write to tell her that she does not qualify as she will not have more than 12 months membership to be eligible to apply. However, she is to be encouraged to apply in 2015.
- C.** Notice of AGM needs to go out soon. No elections needed this year. **Action:** Carolyn to send Notice of Meeting to Russell and Noelene.
- D.** Successful travel grants to be announced on the website? Suggestion from Russell. In future the correspondence regarding successful applicant to include notice that this will be announced in the RMN and on the Website. **Action:** Carolyn to write to Russell to tell him that they have already been announced in the Presidents Report in December.
- E.** Information Item: Request received from Government House for information about a member who is a nominee for an award within the Order of Australia. No further action required.
- F.** Information Item: Email from Marg Friedel re: Training Sessions at Alice Springs Conference **Action:** Council to comment to John's draft RMN article by Saturday 28 March..
- G.** Information Item: Email from Bek Christensen re: Ecosystem Science Long-Term Plan. Suggestion to Bek that she contribute an article for RMN. **Action:** Carolyn to contact Bek and ask if she can submit an article to Noelene by Sat 28 March.

- H. Information Item: Email received re: IRC in Melbourne in 2020. Council suggested that any such meeting is unlikely to be in Melbourne but we should explore the idea of an IRC somewhere in the rangelands of Australia. We would need to be in the position to make our bid at the Saskatoon Conference in 2016. **Action:** David and Annabel to explore options, interest and develop a proposal.
- I. Third World Member Support (Graeme). A person in Sudan who wishes to be a member but has no money. Graeme suggests we give him a minimum honorary membership for one year. Council agreed that this precedent needed more research. In due course Council should develop a policy for third world members. **Action:** Graeme to follow up with CSIRO about free access to TRJ for third world countries..

6. Correspondence

INCOMING

13-Feb-14	Letter	Australian Honours Secretariat	Seeking information about a member who has been nominated for an award
3-Mar-14	Email	Marg Friedel	Training Sessions at the Alice Springs Conference
5-Mar-14	Email	Lachlan Ingram	Request for our list of grassland science members
12-Mar-14	Email	Sarah Watson	Her eligibility to apply for a travel grant
12-Mar-14	Email	Bek Christensen	Information about Ecosystem Science Long-Term Plan
25-Mar-14	Email	Aust Government	Re response to Threatening Processes in Arid Lands

OUTGOING

29-Jan-14	Email	Pieter Conradie	General Meeting of Members in Conference Program
30-Jan-14	Email	Pieter Conradie	Council meeting matters to NT Organising Committee
05-Feb-14	Email	Ron Hacker	Response of the NT Committee re Special Issue
12-Feb-14	Email	Sally Leigo and Ray Bird	Request for Member's contact details not agreed to. Alternate method of distribution suggested
28-Feb-14	Email/Letter	Australian Government	Response to Threatening Processes in the Arid Lands

7. Next Meeting

The AGM of the Australian Rangeland Society will be held **Wednesday 21st May 2014** at 5 pm (Qld time) at 37 Pioneer Crescent, Bellbowrie, Queensland, 4070 and by teleconference.

The next Council Meeting will be held by teleconference on **Tuesday 24 June 2014** at 6 pm Queensland time. Carolyn will be an apology for this meeting.