



The Australian Rangeland Society

Council Meeting No. 253

MINUTES

6 pm QLD Time – Wednesday 3 August 2016 by Teleconference

1. **Present:** David Phelps (Chair), Don Burnside, Cathy Waters, Dionne Walsh, Gus Whyte, Andrew Ash, Megan Munchenberg (exited 6.50 pm)

Apologies: Carol Ireland

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** The Minutes of Council Meeting 251 on Wednesday 30 March 2016 held by teleconference were approved. Moved: Dionne, Seconded: Andrew, **Carried**

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

A. Strategic Plan (David).

- David referred to the South African Grassland Society which is going well with a growing membership, and growing employment in the 'rangeland industry'. We need to determine what they are doing that is working well for them
- Cathy suggested there is a gap in providing industry forums that ARS could perhaps fill, piggy-backing on NRM groups, and/or the regionally focused pasture updates involving the NSW Grassland Society and being funded by MLA. This may attract members. Cathy to discuss how this might work with Western LLS.
- Megan agreed with a focus on landholder interests through NRM linkages, with ARS acting as a broker perhaps?
- Andrew raised the possibility of ARS providing a service to members in the form of a review of press releases, events and activities relevant to rangelands.
- After some discussion it was decided that a small group would research opportunities and bring a discussion paper back to the next meeting of Council. David suggested that involvement of Kate Forrest (Exec Officer, Rangeland Alliance) and Andrew Drysdale (Chair NRM Alliance) is needed to get buy-in from NRM groups.
- Final point – to consider how this might work in with social media.

Action: Cathy, Megan and Gus to send out discussion points about how the reach of the ARS could be expanded through links with other organisations for consideration at the next meeting.

Action: Andrew to investigate opportunities and costs for ARS to have a weekly email bulletin that includes links to press releases, events, and activities of interest to rangeland people.

B. Port Augusta 2017 Conference (Don)

- Minutes of the Organising Committee (OC) dated 2 July 2016 were circulated to Council, together with summary notes from Carol dated 6 July 2016.
- Jen Cleary has resigned as Chair of the Organising Committee, is being replaced by John Gavin
- John Taylor will coordinate student contributions through interactions with universities.
- Noted that \$1,000 is available from CSIRO Publishing to support student awards.
- Next meeting of the Organising Committee is 13 August, Don in attendance.

Action: Don and Carol to keep Council informed.

Action: Don to advise John Taylor about next steps regarding student participation in the conference.

C. Sandfire Resources Sponsorship (Ben). Sandfire are still keen and Ben is still pursuing this.

Action: Ben to report back at the next meeting

D. Daryl Green's Motion at the AGM regarding the future of ACRIS and subsequent writing of a Ministerial (David and Daryl).

- This matter has lost momentum. The Commonwealth has not released the report prepared about ACRIS, and without that it is not possible to take effective action.

Action: Advise Darryl that unfortunately no further action will be taken.

E. Succession Planning for a new Secretary (Carol)

- Don advised that Bob Shepherd (DAF, Charters Towers) has indicated interest.

Action: Don To contact Bob Shepherd and determine his intentions.

F. "Creating a Modern Outback Forum" (David)

Action: David to expand this for the RMN.

G. Massey University (NZ) bid for the 2024 IRC (David)

- The 2020 IRC will be held in Kenya, as a joint meeting between IRC and IGC.
- The New Zealand people at IRC in Saskatoon, having seen what is required have decided not to bid for the 2024 IRC.
- There is interest in Australia bidding for the 2024 Congress. Dana Kelly is President of the IRC Continuing Committee and David Phelps is the other Australasian representative on the Committee.

Motion: The ARS will work towards a bid for holding the 2024 IRC in Australia. Moved: Cathy, Seconded Gus.

H. Feedback to the Publications Committee (Dionne) (Emailed to Council by Dionne on Feb 4)

- No further action required

I. TRJ Contract extension. To remain on Agenda until later this year.

- See Publications Committee Report – call for tenders to send out December 2016, for commencement of new contract in December 2017.

Action: Don to ask Ron to send tender document around for any final suggested edits from Council members.

J. International Year of Rangelands (David) (Emailed to Council 27 June)

- David advised this is progressing – it is likely to be called the 'Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists'. The year 2020 is already taken and given how long it takes for these matters to be agreed, it could well be 2024. It will be managed by a sub-committee of the UN, and member countries will need to provide support.

Action: ARS to maintain contact and respond to requests for assistance as required.

4. General business:

(a) Membership – Report from Annabel Walsh

Details as of 3 August 2016.

Annabel provided the following data

Active Member	246
Inactive Members	136 (Past members who have chosen not to renew)
Hard copy	123

E-journals	151
Complimentary	19

- This number of active members cannot be reconciled with the membership income received to date (\$13,419), and the numbers receiving hard copy and e-journals are greater than the number of active members.
- It is possible that some renewal notices are going to Queensland DAF members' old e-mail address.

Action: Don to contact Annabel and clarify the number and names of members who have paid for 2016.

Action: Annabel to send David a list of non-renewing Queensland members.

Action: Don to send around membership options for 2017.

Action: Renewal notices and cut off dates to be advertised in November well before the end of the calendar year. Payments due by 1 January.

Action: We need to be able to track the money that comes in. Annabel to send the list of paid members to Don on a regular basis.

Action: Fat Beehive can organise lists in whatever way we want them. Don to ask Fat Beehive for this breakdown.

Action: Carol to list all members who have had problems.

Action: David to write another reminder email to non-financial members

Action: David to write with thanks to Graeme for his contribution to the Society

Action: Annabel to bring computer down to Carol in Adelaide and Carol to copy data from it.

Action: Carol to acquire and store a copy of the OLD Database

(b) Finance – Report from Don Burnside

Financial report to 31 July 2016 circulated by Don. With the exception of membership income, most of the income for 2016 is in, with mainly expenses (honoraria, payment to CSIRO Publishing) from here to the end of the year. There will be some Port Augusta conference income and expenditure before the end of 2016.

	Full year budget (GST excl)	Actual Jan 1 to July 31 (GST Excl)	Outstanding items since 31 July
INCOME			
TOTAL INCOME	\$58,217	\$44,205	\$2,310
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$97,736	\$42,455	\$2,908
PROFIT/ LOSS	\$39,519	\$1,750	

Balance of Accounts at 31 July	
Operating Cheque Account 8347	\$695.90
Conference Account 8363	\$5,177.59
Savings Account 8721	\$121,775.19
Membership Account 3504	\$63.66
Total cash	\$127,712.34
Outstanding accounts receivable and payable	
Income not yet entered	\$2,310.00
Current liabilities not yet paid	-\$2,908.00
GST payable for Q2	-\$1,241.18
Net assets	\$125,873.16

Moved: By Don to accept the financial report. **Seconded,** Andrew. **Carried.**

(c) Publications Committee – Report from the Chair, Ron Hacker

The Publications Committee met on 13 July 2016. Matters for Council consideration arising from this meeting are:

1. The Rangeland Journal

Publication of TRJ is running smoothly with three issues published to date in 2016 (two of which were Special Issues) and Issue 4 scheduled for publication on schedule in early August. The current volume of submissions is consistent with recent years. There is still a need for additional Associate Editors and at least one more (replacement) Advisory Editor.

Tenders for the new publishing contract, to take effect from December 2017, will be called in November. Input from Council to the tender documents (which were largely completed early this year prior to extension of the CSIRO Publishing contract) will be required before then.

2. Range Management Newsletter

No major issues to report. The July 2016 issue is in preparation but publication will be delayed until early August to allow time for inclusion of reports from Travel Grants recipients who attended the IRC. The RMN Editor and the Social Media Editor will liaise to ensure that 'teasers' from this issue are posted on social media.

3. Web site

Updating of the web site has not been occurring as quickly as required in recent months. The Web Site Editor has acknowledged this situation, due largely to her personal circumstances, and has given an undertaking to address it. Specific issues that require attention include uploading of:

- archival issues of Range Management Newsletter;
- past proceedings of Biennial Conferences;
- Council and PC minutes;
- TRJ abstracts for the current issue.

The Web Site Editor will liaise with the RMN Editor to distribute and email alert to members when Abstracts from the most recent issue of TRJ are posted on the web.

The Web Site Editor requested, and the PC agreed, that all communication regarding alterations to the site should be directed in future through a single point of contact. The PC agreed that this point of contact should be the Chair of PC and requests that Council members observe this protocol.

Recommendation 1: That all future requests for changes to the web site from Council or Council members be channelled through the Chair of the Publications Committee.

- Discussion – this may not work in the event that minor changes are required as part of conference planning and where direct contact between the conference PCO and website manager is required.

Action: David to discuss further with Ron.

4. social media

The Society's social media presence is continuing to grow with a steady stream of posts to Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The number of Facebook likes is now 630, compared to just over 500 when Amber Marshall took over as Social Media Editor (SME) in December 2015. Members of Council and PC are increasingly making material available for social media. It is important that this trend continue and strengthen. It is anticipated that the SME will install the Hootsuite program in the near future which will reduce the current daily workload by enabling the scheduling of posts and simplifying the collation of usage statistics. Ms Marshall was congratulated on the professional manner in which she is conducting the Society's social media accounts and reporting these activities.

5. Membership Drive

The PC discussed the membership drive in 2016 which has been flagged by Council but without a clear indication of the role that the PC will be required to play. A number of ideas were raised in discussion:

- Definition and promotion of the benefits of membership was seen as key to a membership drive; benefits could be promoted through social media. (It was noted that the benefits of membership are limited, that most of the information on the web-site is freely available and

that for many people in the public sector institutional subscriptions negate the need for personal membership).

- Establishment of a media monitoring service related for rangeland issues could be an attractive new benefit for members; this would require a volunteer as the task could not be added to any of the existing roles; further information is being sought regarding the logistics and cost of such a service.
- Facebook followers who forward ARS posts to friends could enter a draw to win a free registration for the 2017 conference (in the expectation that a proportion of those receiving ARS posts will be attracted to the web site and some of these may become members).

The PC requests that Council provide more detail regarding its plans for the membership drive, and the role required of the PC, as soon as possible.

Action: Don to advise Publications Committee about the actions underway under strategic planning (see 3A above) and plans for membership renewal etc as shown in 4(a) above.

(d) New business:

- A. Ratification of a further three-year term for Ron Hacker, Chair of Publications Committee (Emailed to Council 29 June)
Moved Don, seconded Cathy, **Carried.**
- B. Ratification of sponsorship for TRJ Lecture and Student Prizes for Wal Whalley's Conference (Emailed to Council 25 May)
ARS to provide \$2,000 sponsorship towards the Conference, noting that it will generate a Special Issue of TRJ. Moved Don, seconded Andrew. **Carried.**
- C. Proposed Council Sponsorship Subcommittee (Andrew) (Emailed to Council 8 June) (2017 Organising Committee Target List will be emailed to Council before the meeting)
- This was raised with the Port Augusta Conference Organising Committee who are very supportive. The plan is just to provide some oversight about how sponsorship income is progressing. There is a need to maintain the connection between running a good conference and generating income for ARS.
 - The planned Subcommittee can also assist with securing sponsorship outside the Conference.

Action: Andrew to identify names to join a Sponsorship Subcommittee.

Action: Don to review the ARS Articles of Association to determine the requirements for establishing a Sponsorship Committee within the ARS structure.

- D. Less expensive conference calls (Dionne/Andrew) (Emailed to Council 4 April)
- Andrew suggested that ARS could register with Webex, which charges 9c/minute. This will be cheaper than current costs through Chorus Call (about \$3,500 pa).

Action: Andrew to follow up on using Webex as a means of reducing meeting costs.

- E. New Fellows (David/Wal) (Emailed to Council 26 May)
- This can be deferred for now, pending further information on options to increase the number of Fellows.

Action: Carol to research a proposal for increasing the number of Fellows for Council to consider.

- F. New reminder to unpaid members (David) (Emailed to Council 29 June)
- See actions under 4(a).

- G. Ratification of 2017 Conference Organising Committee Proposal to seek sponsorship from the National Radioactive Waste Project in SA (Emails to Council 6-8 July)

- Council members responded to this issue out of session and agreed that the Organising Committee could approach this project for sponsorship.

Action: Don to advise the Organising Committee at the next meeting (13 August).

H. Report on Xth IRC and promotion of ARS and Journal (David)

David reported as follows:

- Congress was excellent, 500 people attending from 48 countries.
- A lot of young post-grads at the Congress.
- Provision of eco-system services from rangelands is a growing theme.
- CSIRO Publishing contributed \$2,500 towards sponsoring of two morning teas at the Congress. In return David promoted ARS and the Journal from the podium. People expressed interest in publishing in the Journal.
- The ARS/ Rangeland Alliance table was well patronised and had a lot of useful material for visitors.
- 8 Student memberships were provided to students presenting posters at the Congress.
- Opportunities to link with potential conference partners e.g. a joint ARS/ESA conference to boost numbers, and cross-fertilise ideas and build memberships across our two societies.

Action: Cathy to talk to ESA about opportunities to collaborate.

I. Research project proposed by Amber Hope Marshall (emailed to Council 2 Aug)

Action: David to advise Amber that the ARS is supportive of the Project.

J. Additional payment to IRC for promotion activities (emailed to Council 2 Aug)

Provide a further \$1,000 is sponsorship to IRC Canada, in return for the opportunities to promote ARS and the Journal. Moved: Don, seconded Cathy. **Carried.**

Action: David to arrange payment.

K. Travel Grants

Action: Don to advise Noelene to advertise Travel Grants in the next issue of the RMN.

Meeting closed: 8.30 pm (EST)

7. Correspondence:

INCOMING

10-Mar-16	Email	Ron Hacker	Don seeking CSIRO Signed Contract
23-Mar-16	Invoice	DomainName	Invoice for 2 years for ARS Domaine Name
03-Apr-16	Email	Tessa Norman	Information about Rangeland courses in Australia
04-Apr-16	Email	Sarah McDonald	Student prize of Complimentary Membership
12-Apr-16	Email	Melody Zarría	Re advertising on ARS Website
14-Apr-16	Email	Rebecca Hickson, Massey University	Thanking Council for their offer of support for 2020 IRC
21-Apr-16	Email	Fat Beehive	New email addresses for the Society
27-Sep-16	Email	Tanisha Shields	Seeking information about work in Rangelands
29-Apr-16	Letter	Mike Levy	Signed Financial Statements for 2015 (filed with AGM 2016 papers)
30-Apr-16	Email	Jim O'Rourke	Information to Council re International Yr of Rangelands
02-May-16	Email	Sheena Briggs	Seeking information about work in Rangelands
03-May-16	Email	Rebecca Hickson, Massey University	No bid put in for the 2020 IRC
09-May-16	Email	Pieter Conradie	Correspondence re 2015 Conference awards to Jen Silcock and Sarah McDonald
11-May-16	Email	Dana Kelly	International Year of Rangelands
23-May-16	Email	Ron Hacker	Publications Committee representation at IRC Canada

27-May-16	Email	Amin Muger	Acceptance of appointment to Associate Editor
02-Jun-16	Email	Jocelyn Davies	Special Issue TRJ on Mongolian Plateau
02-Jun-16	Email	Cecelia Wollford	Thanks for Complimentary Membership
early June	Email	eWay, Carol, Don Burnside	Numerous communications about switching from eMatters to eWay
03-Jun-16	Email	Ecological Society of Australia	Invitation to advertise events on their google callendar
15-Jun-16	Email	National Library of Australia	Regarding our obligation to provide copies of our publication to the Library - forwarded to Ron Hacker and Paul Novelly

OUTGOING

31-Mar-16	Email	Ron Hacker	Dionne's suggestions for Instructions for Authors in TRJ
31-Mar-16	Email	Annabel Walsh	Activating complimentary memberships for 2016
31-Mar-16	Email	Paul Novelly	Annabel confirming complementary membership for Associate Editors
01-Apr-16	Email	Ron Hacker	From David Phelps re decisions of Council
03-Apr-16	Email	Tessa Norman	Information about Rangeland courses in Australia
12-Apr-16	Email	Melody Zarria	Re advertising on ARS Website
19-Apr-16	Invoice	Melody Zarria	Invoice for advertising on website
19-Apr-16	Email	Fat Beehive	New email addresses for the Society
29-Apr-16	Email	Tanisha Shields	Response seeking information about work in Rangelands
30-Apr-16	Email	Jim O'Rourke	Information to Council re International Yr of Rangelands
05-May-16	Email	Sheena Briggs	Response seeking information about work in Rangelands
05-May-16	Email	Ron Hacker	Response to Don seeking CSIRO Signed Contract
10-May-16	Email	Sarah McDonald	Student prize of Complimentary Membership
10-May-16	Email	Pieter Conradie/ Ron Hacker	Correspondence re 2015 Conference awards to Jen Silcock and Sarah McDonald
13-May-16	Email	Paul Novelly	CSIRO Publishing Contract
26-May-16	Email	Ron Hacker	Extension of term as Chair of PC
24-May-16	Email	Amin Muger	Offer as appointment to Associate Editor
02-Jun-15	Email	Annabel Walsh	Instruction re Complimentary Memberships OC 2017 Conf
02-Jun-16	Email	Members of Port Augusta 2017 OC	Complimentary Membership of the Society
early June	Email	eWay, Carol, Don Burnside	Numerous communications about switching from eMatters to eWay

7. The next meeting of Council will be by teleconference at 6 pm Queensland time on Wednesday 28 September 2016

OTHER MEETINGS FOR 2016

September 28

December 7