



The Australian Rangeland Society

Council Meeting No. 255

MINUTES

5 pm QLD Time – Wednesday 7 December 2016 by Teleconference

1. **Present:** David Phelps (Chair), Dionne Walsh, Carol Ireland, Andrew Ash, Gus Whyte, Don Burnside

Apologies: Cathy Waters, Megan Munchenberg

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** The Minutes of Council Meeting 254 on Wednesday 5 October 2016 held by teleconference were approved. Moved: Dionne, Seconded: Don, **Carried**

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

A. Strategic Plan (David).

- Nothing to add. Suggest increasing use of free memberships (electronic journal access only) as a means of raising profile of the Society and attracting new members. Will definitely be offering free memberships at the Port Augusta Conference.
- Trialing a weekly/ monthly Bulletin of rangeland news/ events – will do two early in the new year and gauge the response

Action: Andrew to arrange two monthly bulletins of rangeland news/ events in the New Year.

B. Port Augusta 2017 Conference (Carol/ Don)

- Program Committee and Organising Committee have met.
- Draft program has been designed. Four day conference (Day 1 - Mayoral reception, Day 2 – tours, Days 3-4 – conference sessions). Suggestion that Lightning Sessions include people coming forward with new ideas.
- Call for abstracts is 'out', and website arrangements for receiving abstracts are all in place.
- Good progress is being made with securing keynote speakers.
- Tours still to be arranged.
- Contract with Pure Outback has been signed and first milestone payment has been made.
- Committed sponsorship funds on hand are \$9,363 (excl GST)
- Sponsorship package is done, Council to assist in defining contacts.
- Registration costs will factor in deduction for existing members and opportunity to attach membership to registration for non-members.

Action: Don and Carol to keep Council informed

Action: Advise Program Committee about Lightning Session being used for people to present new ideas.

Action: Council to assist in identifying sponsors

- C. Sandfire Resources Sponsorship (Ben). Ben is still pursuing the possible opportunity with Sandfire.
Item deferred to the next meeting.
Action: Ben to report back at the next meeting. If there is no progress by the time of the next meeting, it can be dropped.
- D. Succession Planning for a new Secretary (Carol)
 - Bob Shepherd and Carol will meet in Adelaide in late January 2017 to discuss the handover. A date for the actual handover will be decided.
Action: Carol and Bob to organize the handover
- E. "Creating a Modern Outback Forum" (David)

Action: David to invite Barry Traill (Pew) to write an article for the next RMN.
- F. Proposed bid for the 2024 IRC (David)
 - Nothing further to report
 - Advice that ARS will be bidding should be put in the membership renewal notices
- G. TRJ Contract extension. To remain on Agenda until later this year.
 - See Publication Committee Report. There is considerable interest by publishers, and additional information is being provided to those interested in tendering.
- H. International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (David) (Emailed to Council 27 June)
 - Letters have gone to relevant state ministers
 - Press release and interview with ABC (David)
 - IYRP press release was picked up Qld wide by ABC radio, and also went overseas
 - The process is cementing ARS as a key player in the international rangeland environment.
Action: Andrew Ash to brief Angus McKenzie, Australian Ambassador to UNESCO
- I. Proposed Council Sponsorship Subcommittee (Andrew)
 - See 3B.
Action: Kate Forrest will circulate Conference Sponsorship List to David, Gus, Megan, Dionne, Don, Carol to add names.
- J. Less expensive conference calls (Dionne/Andrew) (Emailed to Council 4 April)
 - Webex can handle 25 attendees for \$68/month and unlimited VoIP calls. They will provide a free trial for 14 days.
Action: Will evaluate Webex as a free trial early in 2017.
- K. New Fellows (Council and members)
 - The call for two new Fellows was in the most recent RMN
 - One nomination – for Dr Margaret Friedel – has been received
 - Moved that Dr Margaret Friedel be appointed a Fellow of the Australian Rangeland with immediate publicity, and formal presentation of the Fellowship at the port Augusta conference in September 2017. **Moved** Andrew, **seconded** Dionne, **carried**
Action: David to advise Margaret of her appointment as a Fellow.
Action: Noelene to put a notice on the website and in the next RMN.
- L. New reminder to unpaid members (David)
 - Fat Beehive have been asked to modify the website to allow for simple renewals by members, and to accommodate annual and three-yearly memberships

- After that is done, individualised invitations to renew will be sent to all 2015 and 2016 members.

Action: Don to instruct Fat Beehive to send out individualised renewal notices to all 2015 and 2016 members.

4. General business:

(a) Membership

- No report available. Don suggested numbers were slightly higher than those presented in the August 2016 minutes (estimate - 166 paid members, 27 complimentary members).

(b) Finance – Report from Don Burnside

Financial report to 30 November 2016 circulated by Don.

INCOME	Full year budget (GST excl)	Actual Jan 1 to Nov 30 (GST Excl)
TOTAL INCOME	\$58,217	\$48,767
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$97,736	\$87,553
PROFIT/ LOSS	-\$39,519	-\$38,786

Balance of Accounts at 29 September 2016	
Operating Cheque Account 8347	\$666.37
Conference Account 8363	\$275.45
Savings Account 8721	\$84,274.32
Membership Account 3504	\$51.39
Petty cash conference	\$500.00
Total cash	\$85,960.58
Outstanding accounts receivable and payable	
Income not yet entered	\$4,818.00
Current liabilities not yet paid	
Tax payable GST (Don to clarify this item)	-\$18,038.00
Net assets	\$108,816.58

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

(c) Publications Committee – Report from Ron Hacker

The Publications Committee met on 23 November 2016. Matters for Council consideration arising from this meeting are as follows.

Rangeland Journal – new contract

Issue 5 for 2016 has been published on-line although there appears to be some slowness in distribution of hard copies which Dr Novelty will take up with CSIRO Publishing. There are enough papers in hand for printing of Issue 6 so the journal will again meet its target of four normal issues and two special issues for the year. Dr Novelty currently has about 30 manuscripts in various stages of the review process. Those that were in the pipeline at the time Dr Novelty assumed the role of Editor-in-Chief, and are still being managed by Wal Whalley, may provide an additional 4-5 accepted manuscripts for 2017. With two special issues under contract for 2017 the journal can look forward to another successful year.

The call for Expressions of interest to submit a tender for the publication contract for 2018-2022 was distributed on 13 November, with a closing date of 15 December. The publishers contacted were CSIRO Publishing, Cambridge University Press, Wiley Blackwell, Elsevier,

SAGE Publishing and Oxford University Press. Oxford University Press has declined to submit a tender. All others have responded positively and I expect that the Information Package will have been distributed to them by mid-December. It has currently been provided to three who have so far submitted a formal Expression of Interest. The deadline for tenders is 28 February.

The Publications Committee (PC) agreed the following process to evaluate the tenders:

- All tenders will go to all members of the PC for initial assessment;
- A sub-committee will consider members' comments and the tenders in more detail and develop a recommendation for the PC; this sub-committee could include members of Council (who are not also members of the PC) and some specialist expertise could be co-opted if available;
- The PC will make a recommendation to Council.

Recommendation 1. That Council endorse this process for evaluation of tenders and consider if, and by whom, it wishes to be represented on the sub-committee.

Council endorsed the process, and requested that the President be Council's representative on the sub-committee. **Moved:** Carol, **Seconded:** Don. **Carried.**

New Associate Editor

There is a need for additional Associate Editors for the journal as some AEs have indicated they are handling too many manuscripts. This situation must be rectified if these invaluable volunteers are to be retained. The Editor-in-Chief has approached Dr Steven McLeod seeking his interest in appointment as an AE with specific wildlife management interests (to replace Dr Brian Cooke who did not accept reappointment at the expiry of his term in December 2015). The PC considered a proposal from the Editor in Chief, and Dr McLeod's CV, out-of-session and carried a motion to recommend his appointment to Council. Dr McLeod has indicated he would accept an appointment if offered.

Recommendation 2. That Council appoint Dr Steven McLeod as an Associate Editor of The Rangeland Journal for a three year term commencing as soon as possible, and that the President advise Dr McLeod to this effect.

Council endorsed Dr McLeod's appointment as an Associate Editor. **Moved:** Carol, **Seconded:** Don. **Carried.**

Action: David to advise Dr Steven McLeod of his appointment as an Associate Editor of *The Rangeland Journal* for a three year term commencing immediately.

Rangeland Management Newsletter

The November RMN has been published on the website on time. The Editor (Noelene Duckett) will follow up the IRC student prize winners for articles for March 2017. Some institutional members are apparently not receiving the newsletter alert and Noelene will follow-up with Annabel Walsh on this matter.

Reference to advertising in the RMN has been removed from both the newsletter and the 'How to advertise' page of the website. The PC requested that Don Burnside add some more material to the 'How to Advertise' page to outline the process of advertising on the web and the current rates.

Action: Don to add some more material to the 'How to Advertise' page to outline the process of advertising on the web and the current rates.

Website

There was no report from the Website Editor. In a subsequent telephone conversation with Camilla Osborn Ron raised the question of whether she still has the time or interest to continue in this position. She has undertaken to consider her position and advise me. This advice is not available at the time of writing but may be by the time of the Council meeting. Should she

resign her appointment it may be best to seek professional support for the web site, to the cost of the Honorarium, while seeking a volunteer to take over the role.

Council noted the situation, and is looking for an early resolution to the situation.

Social media

Social media accounts are going well although the level of following may be plateauing. As noted in the last report to Council, Amber Marshall now has a full time job and is finding it hard to keep up the original standard. The main issue is the time involved in sourcing relevant, high quality content for posting to Facebook and from which tweets can be developed. It has not proved feasible to source additional support for Amber from within the PC. Amber has indicated that she would be willing to forego \$500 of her Honorarium if some additional support could be sourced. Subsequently I approached Wright Social (Heidi Wright, who established and initially managed our social media accounts) to ascertain her capacity to assist. She has indicated that she could provide one relevant, high quality post for Facebook, which could provide at least one tweet, for \$30 per week or \$1,560 per annum. This would represent a net cost to the ARS of \$1,060 pa. If this level of support could be provided it would allow the Social Media Editor to focus more on providing support for the forthcoming conference to help ensure its success, and hopefully attract new members, and it should reduce the workload to the point where the services of a capable SME are retained. (It should be remembered in this context that doubts were raised at the outset of our involvement in social media as to the Society's capacity to maintain an effective presence on a purely voluntary basis). The PC recognised that the Society's social media activities need to be conducted properly if at all and after considerable discussion agreed to recommend the proposal to Council.

Recommendation 3. That Council fund the services of Wright Social to provide one relevant post to Facebook and Twitter per week at a cost of \$30 (\$1,560 per annum) and that this be partly funded by a reduction of \$500 p.a. in the Honorarium paid to the Social Media Editor. (Council should consider the term over which this arrangement will operate but I recommend it be for a period of at least 12 months with an option to extend).

Council endorsed Recommendation 3, with the amendment that the engagement of Heidi Wright be reviewed after 12 months, with the aim of getting financial arrangements back in line with the original budget for social media. **Moved:** Dionne, **Seconded:** Carol. **Carried.**

Vacancy on the publications committee

The PC agreed that Ron should approach Kate Forest of the Rangelands NRM Alliance to determine her willingness to accept an appointment to the PC. This has been done but I have had no response at the time of writing.

Biennial Conference

The Organising Committee has approached the PC to recommend a list of potential reviewers of submitted abstracts or papers. CSIRO Publishing has provided a list of Australian referees used by The Rangeland Journal since 2014 and Ron has forwarded this to the Chair of the Organising Committee.

Council accepted the Publications Committee Report. **Moved:** Carol, **Seconded:** Don. **Carried.**

5 New business:

A. Applications for Travel Grants

- Three applications for Travel Grants for 2017 were received. They were assessed as follows.
 - Mohamed Habibou Assouma. Mr Assouma only joined the Society in August 2017 and therefore is not eligible to receive a Travel Grant.

- Neil Macleod. Council judged the purpose of the travel to be of limited value in furthering the objectives of the ARS and declined the application.
- Peter O'Reagain. Council considered that travelling to the SRM Annual Meeting to present Australian findings on grazing strategies is of value to the ARS. It was resolved that Dr O'Reagain be offered \$1,500 towards the cost of his SRM Annual Meeting (less than the requested \$2,000).

The decisions above were **Moved:** Don, **Seconded:** Carol, **Carried.**

Action: David to advise Peter O'Reagain of his successful application, provided he is prepared to accept \$1,500 towards the cost of his travel. (done)

Action: -David to advise Mohamed Habibou Assouma and Neil Macleod that their applications for Travel Grants were declined (Carol has provided David with draft letters

Council discussed the need to tighten criteria for Travel Grants so that they are targeted at

- members who have not had the opportunity to travel widely within or outside Australia; and
- members in the earlier stages of their career.

This will be investigated by Council at the next meeting.

B. New e-mail addresses for the President and Secretary-

- These have now been set up as president@austrangesoc.com.au and secretary@austrangesoc.com.au.

6. Correspondence:

INCOMING

06-Oct-16	Email	Wal Whalley	Requesting a short ARS video for promotion at conference
06-Oct-16	Email	Aaron Rhodes	Thanks to ARS for Student Prize at Saskatoon
06-Oct-16	Email	Dana Kelly	Requesting advertisement of a position with the IUCN
12-Oct-16	Email	Paul Beaton	Setting up new Society email addresses
23-Oct-16	Email	Mike Levy at Lee Green (Auditor)	Community Service Organisation exemption document
28-Nov-16	Email	Paul Beaton	Setting up Membership renewal for 2017
01-Nov-16	Email	Minister Hunter (SA)	Acknowledging receipt of our IY Press Release
10-Nov-16	Email	Neil McLeod	Applications for a Travel Grant
18-Nov-16	Email	Mohamed Assouma	Applications for a Scholarship
30-Nov-16	Email	Peter O'Reagain	Applications for a Travel Grant

OUTGOING

06-Oct-16	Email	Wal Whalley	Thanking Wal for his idea about an ARS short video
08-Oct-16	Email	Paul Beaton	Request to set up new Society email addresses
23-Oct-16	Email	Mike Levy at Lee Green (Auditor)	From the ATO regarding an overdue tax return
26-Oct-16	Letter	Minister Hunter (SA)	Requesting support for IYRP
26-Oct-16	Letter	Minister Bignell (SA)	Requesting support for IYRP
23-Nov-16	Email	Paul Beaton	Setting up Membership renewal for 2017

7. The next meeting of Council will be by teleconference at 5 pm Queensland time on Wednesday 27 January 2017

MEETINGS FOR 2017

5.00 pm (Qld time) January 27

5.00 pm (Qld time) March 29

5.00 pm (Qld time) May 15 - AGM