



The Australian Rangeland Society

MINUTES PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

FACE-TO-FACE MEETING

11 am Australian Central Standard Time
Board Room, Alice Springs Convention Centre

Thursday 16 April 2015.

1. Ron Hacker welcomed everyone to the meeting
2. **Present:** Ron Hacker (Chair), Wal Whalley, Ken Hodgkinson, Andrew Ash, Don Burnside, John Milne, Carol Ireland (Minute Secretary)
Guests: Chris Anderson (CSIRO Publishing)
Apologies: David Eldridge, Noelene Duckett, Steve Blake, Jocelyn Davies, Marg Friedel, Tony Pressland, Brian Walker, Mark Stafford-Smith, Digby Race, Neil MacLeod, Russell Grant
3. **Other items of General Business**
None
4. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
Motion: That the minutes of last Publications Committee meeting which took place by teleconference on 11 February 2015 be approved as amended.
Moved: Wal Whalley
Seconded: Ken Hodgkinson
Carried.
5. **Matters arising from previous minutes**
 - 5.1. *Rangeland Journal Lectures (2014 and 2015)*
Leo Dobes lecture – Ken Hodgkinson has a video of the lecture on a CD. We will wait until the new website is launched before posting this video.
2015 – Andrew Ash will invite Phil Thornton to present a lecture on global livestock issues after he arrives in Australia from ILRI. Likely that such a lecture would attract 60-100 people. Committee members were asked to advise Ron Hacker of any other opportunities to engage visiting scientists in presenting a lecture. Carolyn Ireland can supply Society banners for use at Rangeland Journal lectures.
Any proposal for professional production of a video of future lectures will need to be put to Council on a case by case basis.
 - 5.2. *Special Issue on mining in rangelands*
Ron Hacker has written to Ms. Melanie Stutsel (Director – Health Safety, Environment & Community Policy, Minerals Council of Australia) proposing a Special Issue sponsored by MCA but has not yet received a reply. He will follow up with Ms. Stutsel.
 - 5.3. *Open Access Strategy*
To be dealt with under CSIRO Publishing report
 - 5.4. *Other matters arising*

None

6. Progress report on *The Rangeland Journal*

6.1. Report from Editor-in-Chief, John Milne

- Move from 4 to 6 issues per annum in 2014
- Number of papers increased from 80 in 2013 to 125 papers in 2014.
- Increase in number of papers from China and Middle East. Highlights the fact that TRJ is truly international.
- Rejection rate is about 60%.
- Anticipate Impact factor of about 1.4 for 2014 (published in June 2015)
- Turnaround time reduced from 250 days to 200 days in 2014, and 190 days to online publication.
- Multidisciplinary and human dimension papers increasing.
- Encourage all to consider publishing in TRJ.
- Page limit 600 for year.
- Two issues have been published so far in 2015 and one is currently with the Publisher. Anticipate that there will be no problem achieving six issues in 2015.

6.2. New Associate Editors.

The Committee discussed the proposed appointments of three new Associate Editors for *The Rangeland Journal* to replace two individuals who had either resigned or not been re-appointed, and to strengthen the Journal's position in China. A CV of each individual had been circulated with the meeting papers.

Professor Anna Cingolani (Argentina) - Plant ecologist with wide experience, has published in TRJ and has experience as an Associate Editor.

Motion: That the Publications Committee recommend to Council the appointment of Prof. Anna Cingolani as an Associate Editor of The Rangeland Journal

Moved John Milne

Seconded Wal Whalley

Carried

Professor Ling Wang (China) – Professorial position in grassland function ecology, good scientist with wide experience, has published in TRJ.

Motion: That the Publications Committee recommend to Council the appointment of Prof. Ling Wang as an Associate Editor of The Rangeland Journal.

Moved: Ken Hodgkinson

Seconded: Don Burnside

Carried

Professor Fujiang Hou –Senior scientist with experience as editor of a Chinese Journal, English standard should be good, good publication record although relatively few principal authorships, highly recommended by Ken Hodgkinson.

Motion: That the Publications Committee recommend to Council the appointment of Prof. Fujiang Hou as an Associate Editor of The Rangeland Journal.

Moved: Ken Hodgkinson,

Seconded: Wal Whalley

Carried.

6.3. Dr Andrew Ash is resigning as an Associate Editor after 17 years, having taken a position on the ARS Council, and has approached Dr Ian Watson to replace him. Dr Watson has agreed in principle and will forward his CV to John Milne for circulation to the Committee.

Ron Hacker proposed a vote of thanks to Andrew for his long and dedicated service to the Journal. This was seconded by Wal Whalley and carried by acclamation.

Action: John Milne to circulate Ian Watson's CV to the Publications Committee.

6.4. Chris Anderson queried if the ARS has a formal contact with its Associate Editors and offered to provide an example of the form of contract used elsewhere by CSIRO Publishing.

Action: Chris Anderson to supply a copy of the contract for the Publications Committee

6.5. 2014 Publishers Report

- Chris Anderson spoke to the 2014 report which had been amended slightly from the circulated version following discussion with Ron Hacker.
Impact factor shown in the report is for 2013 (2014 figure is not available until June 2015); estimated 2014 Impact Factor is around 1.3; there are some good review papers coming out which will have a positive effect on the Impact Factor in the future.
- Journal has an ongoing need for accessibility and visibility; one Chinese institutional subscription gives access to 400 Universities; visibility is related to our presence at Conferences where we hand out mini-posters and samplers to delegates.

At this point the Publications Committee endorsed the production of a 'samplers issue' of TRJ, including a few popular and high quality papers, for promotional purposes.

- Social media – using Twitter and Facebook and receiving good exposure.
- Flow of Special issues is pleasing.
- Endorse the need for more Associate Editors from South America and China.
- The 2016 International Rangelands Congress in Canada will be a significant opportunity to promote the Journal.
- Uploading of TRJ abstracts onto the Global Rangelands Repository website should be able to proceed in the near future
- Thanks to Wal Whalley for producing the new flyer which outlines the evolution of the Journal.
- Financials – noted that open access income for 2014-15 financial year will include \$10,000 from the Special Issue on 'Social and Ecological Aspects of Grassland Use in Northern China' (note that financials are presented on a financial year basis while journal production works on a calendar year basis); subscriptions have risen because we now produce six issues rather than four.

Chris Anderson spoke to CSIRO Publishing's response to the Publications Committee's proposal regarding the impact of open access (OA) publication on TRJ subscriptions. This response was included in the Publisher's Report circulated to members. At present only a small percentage of papers published in TRJ are OA. CSIRO Publishing acknowledges that if collection of author publication charges for OA papers results in fewer 'unfunded' pages published in a year than the number on which the institutional subscription fee was based, then institutions are entitled to a reduction in subscriptions. The trend in OA will be monitored by CSIRO Publishing and considered in making its recommendation to ARS on the institutional fee for the coming year, with a view to maintaining the overall level of revenue. The rationale for the recommended fee (including any adjustment made for the anticipated level of OA publication) will be provided by CSIRO Publishing. This approach is similar to that proposed by the Publications Committee. Subscriptions for ordinary members can be adjusted in line with the trend in the institutional subscription fee recommended by CSIRO Publishing.

Action: Ron Hacker to convey this response to Council.

Wal Whalley moved a vote of thanks to Chris Anderson and CSIRO Publishing for their excellent performance which has supported the present good health of the Journal. Ken Hodgkinson seconded this vote of thanks which was carried by acclamation.

7. Progress report on ARS Website

7.1 Report from Website Editor
No report

7.2 Upgrading of ARS Website/social media accounts
Progress with the upgrade of the web site had been discussed at the joint Council-PC meeting held on 14 April 2015 and was not discussed further.

8. Progress report on Range Management Newsletter

8.1 Report from RMN Editor
No report. The status of the RMN had been discussed at the joint Council-PC meeting on 14 April 2015. Any redesign work is on hold until the new website is up and running, and feedback from the membership regarding the move to electronic publication only is finalized.

9. General Business

9.1 Matters arising from joint Council-PC meeting, 14 April 2015
Council asked the PC to consider the current perceived reduction of rangeland research. Wal Whalley stated his view that the level of rangeland research has not declined but it is happening in an entirely different way, and through different organisations (e.g. regional NRM organisations) than previously. Some Committee members may not be aware of what is now being done since it is happening outside their usual circle of contacts. However, it could still produce work which is suitable for publication in the Journal.

9.2 Membership Option – on-line journal access only
Council has made the decision to allow a subscription option that provides only on-line access to the Journal, including the archive.

9.3 Other items

10. Date of future meetings

15 July 2015
9 September 2015
18 November 2015

The meeting closed at 12.30 pm