



# *The Australian Rangeland Society*

## **MINUTES PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

Wednesday 12 July 2017

6.00 pm Eastern Standard Time  
By Teleconference

Ron Hacker opened the meeting and welcomed members at 6.04 pm, extending a particular welcome to Jen Silcock for her first meeting.

1. **Present:** Ron Hacker (Chair), Paul Novelly, Jen Silcock, Andrew Ash, Wal Whalley, Camilla Osborn, Don Burnside
2. **Apologies:** David Eldridge, Amber Marshall, Jocelyn Davies, Noelene Duckett
3. **Additional items for general business:**  
Nil
4. **Minutes of the previous meeting:**  
Motion: That the minutes of the Publications Committee meeting held by teleconference on 15 March be accepted as circulated.  
  
Moved: Wal Whalley;  
Seconded: Paul Novelly  
Carried.
5. **Matters arising from previous minutes** (not listed as separate agenda items):  
No matters arising.

### **6. The Rangeland Journal**

#### 6.1. Report from Editor-in-Chief

The third issue for 2017 was published at the end of June. There were fewer pages than usual but the total number of pages for the three issues for 2017 is about 300 and therefore, on track. There are 17 papers currently under consideration, at various stages of review.

The two Special Issues for 2017 are scheduled to be Issues 5 and 6, with the Mongolian issue No. 5, and the Restore, Regenerate, Revegetate issue No. 6, though this may change (see 6.2 below).

#### 6.2. Special Issues

6.2.1 Mongolian Plateau. Jocelyn is currently overseas so there was no formal report. There are some challenges with processing these papers due to extra effort required on

English and style and the general slowness in turn-around through the reviewing process. The papers need to be ready in October to make the next issue.

6.2.2 Restore, Regenerate, Revegetate. Wal Whalley advised that of the 14 papers chosen from the plenary and keynote presentations for the special issue, 10 have been received with another 2-3 papers expected in the near future. There will be sufficient papers for the special issue and if necessary the last paper or two could be carried over to a normal issue if they are significantly delayed.

In light of the current slowdown in submitted papers, Paul asked whether there might be an opportunity for additional conference papers with merit to be expanded from the conference proceedings into journal papers.

**Action:** Wal to look at the conference proceedings to determine if there are additional interesting papers and if so, the authors to be invited to submit a journal paper.

Given the slow progression of some of the papers for the Mongolian plateau special issue, the possibility of bringing forward the RRR special issue to Issue 5 was discussed. Wal thought it was a possibility but it would require all papers to go through the review process smoothly. Paul indicated that the publication of Issue 5 could be delayed until November, if necessary.

It was agreed that the Mongolian plateau and RRR issues would be monitored closely to determine the best way forward as papers progressed in each of the issues.

6.2.3 Northern Development. Andrew Ash advised that 11 people had agreed to prepare papers with a planned deadline for submission being the end of 2017. About half of the authors had provided Abstracts.

**Action:** Paul Novelly to send Andrew Ash the Special Issue proposal template and Andrew Ash to submit the formal proposal by the end of August. Funding for the special issue is reasonably certain. Andrew Ash is to be the Guest Editor.

6.2.4 Port Augusta Biennial Conference: Don Burnside indicated that keynote and plenary presenters at the conference had been approached about preparing journal papers. A Guest Editor needs to be approached but the conference organisers have someone in mind. A paper by Mark Howden has been selected to be the John Milne Memorial Rangeland Journal Lecture.

**Action:** Ron to send to Don a copy of the special issue proposal prepared by the Alice Springs conference organizing committee. Don to work with the Port Augusta organizing committee to submit a formal special issue proposal by early September.

#### 6.2.5 Potential Special Issue on Ecological Restoration

A proposal for a special issue on Ecological Restoration was received from Professor Shikui Dong. Ron and Paul had expressed some concerns about another special issue based on a topic specific to China. A response from Professor Dong indicated it would be an international issue with a diversity of topics and authors from different countries. Paul had sent a follow-up email to Professor Dong with more specific details on the requirements for a special issue but no response has yet been received.

### 6.3. Standard of English in the journal

Ron raised a concern about the standard of English in some of the papers in the journal, particularly those written by authors whose first language is not English. Even though the Editor-in-Chief and the Associate Editors can spend quite a bit of time on papers that need

substantial improvement in English, the improvements from the authors are often incremental and the Editors run out of energy and time for final corrections. This issue has probably worsened in recent years with an increasing number of papers coming from overseas. The Copy Editor/s at CSIRO Publishing should also be correcting English and there was a question whether this was being done appropriately.

**Action:** Ron to invite Jenny Foster to attend a special meeting of the Publications Committee in Port Augusta in September so this issue can be discussed in more detail.

#### 6.4. Status of Publishing Contract

The initial draft prepared by Ron has been discussed with Don Burnside and David Phelps, and a revised version forwarded to a Perth solicitor for comment. We have been fortunate to obtain this legal input free of charge through connections of Don. Ron, Don and David have made some further changes to the version returned from the solicitor and it is now back with the solicitor for final mark-up before it goes to CSIRO Publishing.

### 7. Range Management Newsletter

Noelene Duckett was unable to attend the meeting so there was no report on the Range Management Newsletter.

### 8. ARS web site

#### 8.1. Report from Web Site Editor

Camilla Osborn reported no major issues with the web site.

#### 8.2. Support for Biennial Congress

Camilla Osborn reported that the website has been ticking over quite well. Don commented that the website is working well for membership renewals and conference registrations. Most activity has been on the Conference page, being managed by the Port Augusta Organising Committee. Ron commented that the conference page is not all that intuitive in terms of locating information on the conference venue, program etc. Camilla has received minutes of some recent Council meetings from Bob Shepherd and these will be posted in the near future. Publications Committee minutes are up to date on the site. Camilla would like to add further links to the Resources page. This page provides links to other rangeland-related sites and a brief description of what each site contains. Further sites from NSW, Q'ld and SA in particular are required.

**Action:** Committee members to send links, and a brief description of the site, to Camilla.

#### 8.3. Range Management Newsletter Index

Noelene Duckett is constructing an Index for the Range Management Newsletter archive which will go on to the website. In Noelene's absence there was no further discussion on the topic.

#### 8.4. Biennial Conference Proceedings

This is a substantial job that still needs to be completed. Recent conference proceedings are already on the web site. Some others are available on the Global Rangelands site. Camilla now has the disc of conference proceedings collated by Ken Hodgkinson and scanned by the Global Rangelands project (based at University of Arizona). This should complete the conference archive. The task is now to identify where the various proceedings are located, in what form (individual papers and/or a single file of all papers) and ensure that access to all proceedings is available from the ARS site.

**Action:** Ron and Camilla to progress in the coming months.

## 9. Social Media

Amber Marshall was an apology for the meeting but had submitted a detailed written report for the quarter to the end of May 2017. Exposure of the Society through social media continues to grow steadily. Following recommendations that the postings have a bit more pastoral content, Ron commented that there now appeared to be better balance in the content. There was an overall feeling that the Social Media area is progressing well.

Don suggested that a summary from the Social Media report be included in the Range Management Newsletter. Everyone agreed that was a good idea.

**Action:** Ron to take up the inclusion of a Social Media summary in the RMN with Amber and Noelene.

## 10. General Business

### 10.1. Vacancy on the Publications Committee

Ron indicated that there is a vacancy to be filled but there is no urgency and that time can be taken to select an appropriate person.

Action: Committee members to send to Ron suggestions on suitable candidates for the vacancy.

## 11. Date of future meetings if required (two weeks before Council Meetings)

September 13 (confirmed teleconference)

September 25/26 (Special meeting at the Port Augusta conference – date and time to be confirmed; Jenny Foster to be invited)

September 27 (Joint meeting with Council at Port Augusta conference)

November 22.

The meeting closed at 7.14 pm.