

THE AUSTRALIAN RANGELAND SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE (PC)

Meeting on Wednesday, 3 July 2019 by teleconference

MINUTES

Ron Hacker opened the meeting and welcomed members at 6.05 pm (EST).

1. **Present:** Ron Hacker (Chair), Don Burnside, Wal Whalley, Russell Grant, Paul Novelly, Daryl Green, Andrew Ash.
2. **Apologies:** Jen Silcock, Sarah Moles, Noelene Duckett, David Eldridge,
3. **Additional items for general business:**
Nil
4. **Minutes of the previous meeting – 8 May 2019**
Motion: That the minutes of the Publications Committee meeting held by teleconference on 8 May 2019 be accepted as circulated.
Moved: Wal Whalley; Seconded: Paul Novelly. Carried.
5. **Matters arising from previous minutes (not listed as specific agenda items)**
Nil.
6. **The Rangeland Journal**

6.1. *Report from Editor-in-Chief*

Paul Novelly reported verbally. Volume 41, Issue 2 has been published. Volume 41, Issue 3 will be the SI from the 2017 Port Augusta ARS Conference and will be published in August 2019 (see further comments below).

Currently, there are 48 submitted manuscripts, including some of the manuscripts for the Total Grazing Pressure SI (see further comments below). The number of papers is down compared to previous years for no obvious reason.

6.2. *Special issues (SIs)*

6.2.1. *2017 Biennial Conference (Paul Novelly)*

This is complete, except for the Editorial, which is in final review. One paper by Ben Sparrow, dealing with the TERN monitoring program missed the date for receipt.

6.2.2. *Management of Total Grazing Pressure (Ron Hacker)*

This SI is being edited by Ron Hacker, Lester Pahl and Katrina Sinclair. The contract with NSW DPI has been signed and an invoice has been sent to NSW DPI.

Ten papers are planned and in various stages of preparation. Although progress has been slower than planned, it is still hoped that this SI will be published in 2019 as part of Volume 41.

6.2.3. *Drought Management and Policy (Ron Hacker and Andrew Ash)*

A draft contract has been provided to QDPI for consideration by their legal section. Neil Cliffe (QDAF) has advised that the contract needs to be reviewed by other parties contributing to the work being reported in the SI.

Action: Andrew Ash to contact QDAF and check on progress.

6.2.4 Ecological Degradation and Regeneration of Grasslands – China (Paul Novelty)

Paul Novelty advised that progress of the proposal by Prof. Huilong Lin for a Special Issue has been very slow. Paul has been advised of 'all paid' details for his travel to the conference in September 2019, but there has been no further information on the production of the SI that will flow from the papers at the conference.

Paul said that he has been asked to be the English-speaking Guest Editor for the SI. The PC members advised very strongly against acceptance of this offer on the basis of workload and possible conflict of interest. PC members requested Paul contact other people who have ample Chinese experience (see names below).

Action: Paul Novelty to contact Ken Hodgkinson, David Kemp and David Michalk with an offer of Guest Editorship of the Chinese SI.

6.2.4. *Process for identifying Special Issues (Paul Novelty)*

CSIRO publishing has agreed to nominate a person to join the Special Issue Selection Team, particularly to assist in developing a business case that can be put to potential proponents outlining the benefits of publishing a SI in TRJ. Paul noted in this context the excellent support which he receives from CSIRO Publishing staff.

6.2.5. *Potential Special Issue from the XIth IRC, October 2020, Nairobi, Kenya*

PC members agreed that an offer be made to the Organising Committee of the Kenyan conference for publication of a SI featuring papers presented at the Congress.

Action: Paul Novelty to contact Dana Kelly and David Phelps (members of the IRC Continuing Committee) about the possibility of a SI featuring papers presented at the XIth IRC, October 2020, Nairobi, Kenya.

6.3 *Possible commissioned papers*

6.3.1 *Grazing management of southern Australian rangelands* (Don Burnside). No action yet. The possibility will be discussed with potential authors at the Canberra Conference in September 2019.

6.4 *Engagement of Advisory Editors (Ron Hacker)*

Ron Hacker advised that he had sent a recent paper from TRJ to three Advisory Editors (AE) seeking comment on the quality of the presentation (a different paper for each AE). The comments have been returned to Ron. He will be sending three more papers out and will then summarise the feedback on all six papers.

However, he noted that CSIRO Publishing has advised they have limited resources for copy editing. Hence they are putting less emphasis on this aspect of publication. Their copy editing now focuses on ensuring the paper's title, abstract and references are all correctly presented but less attention is paid to the body of the text.

6.5. *Discussion with CSIRO Publishing (Ron Hacker and Paul Novelty)*

After a discussion (by phone) with CSIRO Publishing around strategic planning for TRJ, Ron Hacker and Paul Novelty reported the following:

- Jenny Foster will be moving to a new role, and our new contact person will be Dr. Marisa Spiniello. As part of this transition CSIRO Publishing will undertake an internal review and strategic planning process for TRJ.
- As part of strategic planning for the journal, Ron and Paul developed a SWOT analysis which was reviewed at the meeting (and had been circulated to PC members).
- In response, CSIRO Publishing agreed that ARS should develop a business case with documentation to support solicitation of Special Issues amongst likely partners. CSIRO Publishing is happy to get involved in this.
- CSIRO Publishing is happy to search for papers for inclusion in Virtual Issues (VI), but suggested that the search be limited to the last two years before release of the VI.
- The TRJ Flier will be updated with the 2018 IF (1.019 covering years 2016-17).
- The five year IF is 1.642 (resulting from the Feral Camel and Tibetan Plateau SIs) and it was suggested we should 'push' this number in marketing the Journal. This represents a relatively long 'half-life' for papers in TRJ.
- We need to address ARS members' concerns about excessive numbers of overseas papers. This needs to be balanced against a concern that parochial papers will not generate citations. Papers with relevant information for Australian readers need also to contain information with a wider relevance.
- CSIRO Publishing advised that all reviews completed since the introduction of the ScholarOne manuscript management system will be included in the Publons database.

7. Range Management Newsletter (RMN)

7.1. Report from Editor

Noelene Duckett was an apology and so there was no report available.

8. Social Media

8.1. Report from Social Media Editor

Sarah Moles was an apology and so there was no report available for the meeting. However, she provided a written report after the meeting, which is attached. Key points follow.

As shown in the table below, numbers of likes and followers have grown across all platforms, even Instagram.

Date	Facebook	Twitter	Instagram
09/12/18	901	1028	252
18/01/19	913	1050	252
04/02/19	914	1059	255
28/02/19	921	1075	255
26/03/19	922	1090	257
07/05/19	945	1123	257
06/07/19	970	1145	261

Ron Hacker asked that the review of the use of social media, prepared in conjunction with Wright Social, be considered at Council's next meeting.

Action: Don Burnside to ensure that the review is on the Agenda for the next Council Meeting.

9. ARS web site

9.1. Report from Editor

Russell Grant provided a verbal report. The new site is very nearly ready to 'go live', with just a few functional issues to be addressed by Blue Platypus (BP). The volume of material to be moved over to the new site has slowed progress. However, the site will be ready for ARS people to review soon (via a link to be provided)

Russell is very keen for new material to put on the website. It was suggested that the number of photos on the carousel could be increased.

Action: PC members to supply suitable photos for inclusion on the web site carousel.

10. General Business

Ron reminded members that he is officially no longer Chair of the PC, and this is likely to be his last meeting in the role. He was thanked by PC members for his great leadership of the PC, and significant individual contribution to its workings over several years.

11. Date of future meetings

2-5 September (Biennial conference); 13 November

Meeting closed at 6.50 pm.

Report from Sarah Moles, Social Media Editor, 6 July 2019

As you can see from the table below, numbers of likers and followers have grown across all platforms, even Instagram!

Date	Facebook	Twitter	Instagram
09/12/18	901	1028	252
18/01/19	913	1050	252
04/02/19	914	1059	255
28/02/19	921	1075	255
26/03/19	922	1090	257
07/05/19	945	1123	257
06/07/19	970	1145	261

The Facebook post about appropriate road building in rural and remote areas was seen by 841 people and attracted some attention and comment beyond just tagging friends – this tagging of others is by far the most frequent kind of comment. I rather wish more people would share the items that are of interest to them ... On Twitter this post gained 7 likes and 7 retweets

The Twitter version of a post about “Becoming Indigenous: Future cities as a network of waterholes connected by songlines” triggered an email from Buffer (my scheduling platform) advising it had potentially been seen by more than 28,000 viewers. On Facebook it was seen by 91 users but only shared by 2.

My Twitter retweets have been rather lumpy over the past 2-3 weeks as I've been in and out of internet and/or mobile range. However it is pleasing that Buffer is a reliable way of ensuring ARS's presence is regular and continuous.

As always I'm very happy to receive information, pictures etc about anything rangelands related.