



**Australian
Rangeland
Society**

THE AUSTRALIAN RANGELAND SOCIETY

A Company limited by Guarantee

ABN 43 008 784 414

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

THE AUSTRALIAN RANGELAND SOCIETY
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DIRECTORS' REPORT

Your directors present their report on The Australian Rangeland Society – hereafter “the Society” or “ARS” – for the year ended 31st December 2022.

The names of directors in office at any time during the year were:

Dionne Lee Walsh (Managing Director, Range IQ Pty Ltd, NT, Age 50) – 1/1/22 to 31/12/22
Robert Norman Shepherd (Principal Scientist, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Qld, Age 68) – 1/1/22 to 31/12/22; and
Donald Grosvenor Burnside (Director, D.G. Burnside & Associates, Age 72) – 1/1/22 to 31/12/22.

The Society’s operations for the year resulted in a modest loss of \$9,029. However, the financial position of the Society is strong, with cash equivalents and term deposits, net of liabilities at 31 December 2022 being \$153,671.

The Society publishes and circulates three issues of the *Range Management Newsletter* and six issues of *The Rangeland Journal* to the members annually, runs a Biennial Conference, provides grants to assist members with travel and research, maintains a publicly accessible website, provides social media platforms, and promotes the advancement of the science and art of using Australia’s rangeland resources for all purposes commensurate with their continued sustainability and productivity.

Review of operations

The Society’s governing Council met five times by Zoom, and held an Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 25 May 2022 (a total of six meetings).

The agenda for every scheduled meeting included discussion of Membership, Finance and Publication Committee reports, matters related to the strategic direction of the Society and the Biennial Conferences of the Society, and other matters involving the Society.

At the AGM, held on 25 May 2022, the Office-Bearers and general Council members were confirmed as follows.

President	Dr Dionne Walsh	– continuing member
Secretary	Bob Shepherd	– continuing member
Finance and Audit Officer	Dr Don Burnside	– continuing member
General Council Members	Angus Whyte	– continuing member
	Megan Munchenberg	– continuing member
	Paul Erkelenz	– continuing member
	Matthew Fletcher	– continuing member
	Pieter Conradie	– continuing member

Sadly, Council Member Paul Erkelenz passed away on 2 December 2022. Paul had been a valued and diligent member of the Australian Rangeland Society and a member of the Council since 8 September 2020. He will be greatly missed.

The following were members of the ARS Council, and attended meetings during 2022.

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Name	Location	Meetings attended (including AGM)	Meetings eligible to attend (including AGM)
Dionne Walsh	Darwin, NT	6	6
Bob Shepherd	Charters Towers, Qld	6	6
Don Burnside	Perth, WA	5	6
Megan Munchenberg	Burketown, Qld	4	6
Angus Whyte	Wentworth, NSW	2	6
Matthew Fletcher	Kununurra, WA	4	6
* Paul Erkelenz	Strathalbyn, SA	1	5
Pieter Conradie	Brisbane, Qld	5	6
* Passed away on 2 December 2022			

Major Council and Society activities during 2022 are presented below.

- The management of the Society’s affairs resulted in a modest loss in 2022 of \$9,092 mainly caused by costs associated with the 2023 Biennial Conference being planned for September 2023, and because the Society did not receive payment for a Special Issue of the Journal in 2022. However, the financial position of the Society is strong, with cash equivalents and term deposits, net of liabilities at 31 December 2022 being \$153,671.
- Council commissioned a new logo for the Society. Our original logo, designed by Roger Oxley, served us well for many decades. Unfortunately, somewhere along the line the original artwork and files were lost, and the ARS had been relying on versions of ever-decreasing quality. The modernised logo retains our original ochre colour whilst also representing all the different climatic zones of the Australian rangelands.
- The ARS bestowed its inaugural “Award of Excellence in Rangeland Management” medal to Tom Mann of Charters Towers. This award recognises people who have made, or are making, a significant contribution to rangeland management, across biophysical, economic, social and governance domains. An article about Tom Mann’s contribution to rangeland management was published in the *Range Management Newsletter* 22/1: <https://austrangesoc.com.au/inaugural-award-of-excellence-in-rangeland-management/>. Nominations for this award are open year-round and information on how to prepare a nomination can be found on the ARS website: <https://austrangesoc.com.au/awards/>.
- The Publications Committee (PC) drives and supports the Society’s publications, being *The Rangeland Journal*, the *Range Management Newsletter*, the website and social media. Council thanks Dr Bradd Witt (Chair) and all members of the PC for their important contributions to the Society. In 2022 the ARS welcomed Linda Date to the role of Social Media Editor and Jayne Cuddihy to the role of Website Editor.
- After careful consideration, Council and the PC have committed to a “Read and Publish” model for *The Rangeland Journal* in the new publishing contract with CSIRO Publishing. This move reflects an increasing international trend towards making scientific journals more accessible to readers by removing fees to read papers. It is envisaged that the new publishing model will increase the reach of scientific research. The new model enables corresponding authors at participating institutions to publish their articles as Open Access without personal charge. For authors not affiliated with a participating institution, an Open Access charge will be levied by CSIRO-Publishing as per current practice. A number of free and/or heavily-subsidised Open Access opportunities will be made available each year to ARS members who are not members of participating institutions. ARS members will continue to have free access to all full-text articles published in *The*

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Rangeland Journal by CSIRO Publishing, including archive content. These are just two of the great benefits of Society membership.

- In late 2022, Council announced that hard copies of *The Rangeland Journal* will cease after the completion of Volume 44 in early 2023. This was a difficult, but necessary, decision because the cost of printing and distributing a dwindling number of hard copies was becoming uneconomic. As a result of this change, Society membership fees will reduce for those members who previously subscribed to receive the printed journal. The change to electronic-only also allows for papers to be published as soon as they are accepted rather than having to wait weeks or months for a volume to be filled to reach the required printing specifications. Consequently, this change supersedes the 2021 decision to reduce the number of journal issues from six to four per year. That decision was initially taken in response to a sharp decline in the number and quality of submitted manuscripts that sometimes made it difficult to reach the minimum page numbers required for timely printing of each issue. With the move to electronic-only publication, this is no longer relevant.
- In late 2022, Council also announced that Society memberships will move to an auto-renewal system from 2023. This initiative is expected to improve the timeliness of receiving membership income and reduce the considerable workload of the Membership Officer in chasing up renewals. Members who wish to retain their manual renewal arrangement can contact the Membership Officer to opt-out of auto-renewal.
- Council was pleased to announce that the next Biennial Conference will be held in Broome in September 2023, with information presented later in this Annual Report. More details about the program and how to register can be found at the conference website: <https://aapevents.eventsair.com/ars2023/>
- Preparations for the 2025 XIIth International Rangeland Congress (IRC) to be held in Adelaide are well-advanced. A company limited by guarantee – the XIIth International Rangeland Congress Inc has been established to run the Congress. The ARS is the host organisation for the IRC, but the finances of the ARS and IRC are kept separate. Significant financial support has been provided by the South Australian Convention Bureau. The ARS has provided \$20,000 as a loan for use on planning and organising the IRC, with the formal understanding that these funds will be returned to the Society after the IRC. Council thanks Pieter Conradie, Dr Nicole Spiegel and Dr Andrew Ash for their hard work as co-chairs of the IRC Committee in 2022, together with all committee chairs and members.
- The ARS supported a proposal for an 'International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists' (IYRP). Mongolia spearheaded the IYRP proposal with the support of several other organisations via the United Nations (UN) FAO Committee on Agriculture. Drs Dana Kelly, David Phelps and Nicole Spiegel were instrumental in coordinating Australia's contribution to the proposal. A vote at the UN in early 2022 ratified the IYRP, which will be held in 2026. The Australasian IYRP committee is seeking interested individuals to assist with the planning of a range of events and initiatives in the lead up to, and during, the International Year to raise public awareness about the importance of rangelands and pastoralists.

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Membership (A/Membership Officer – Dr Don Burnside)

Membership at 31 December 2022

As at 31 December 2022, there were 206 members of the ARS, including 32 complimentary members. One hundred and seventy four members (174) were financial for 2022. This is an increase from the 2021 membership which was 196 financial members at the end of 2021.

Forty members (40) members have already paid to the end of either 2023 or 2024, and one complimentary member has donated the value of his membership for 2022.

Nine (9) members who did not renew in 2022 have been removed from the active list, given they were advised that 30 November was the 'close off date'. Some of these will continue to receive issues of Vol 44 of the journal until that volume concludes in April 2023. Sadly, one valued and very active member passed away late in 2022.

Membership at 31 December 2022

Category	Hardcopy Journal	E-journal	Total
Complimentary members in 2022*	8*	24	32
Financial members in 2022	85	89	174
ARS members	93	113	206
Institutional subscribers to the Journal	10	79	89
Grand total	103	192	295

* one complimentary member has donated the equivalent of his membership for 2022

New members

We have welcomed 20 new members since the beginning of the year. The new members include:

- Five people who attended the joint ARS/ Desert Channels Queensland Conference in Longreach 2021, who responded to an invitation to join;
- Four new Company members;
- Six new Standard members;
- Two members who have re-joined after a lengthy absence;
- One student; and
- Two new complimentary members (incoming Website Editor and incoming the incoming Social Media Editor).

Institutional subscribers

In addition to publishing *The Rangeland Journal*, CSIRO Publishing manages subscriptions for the Society's 'Library' subscribers as well as some of its 'Institutional/Corporate' subscribers. There were 85 institutional subscribers to *The Rangeland Journal* in 2022.

The number of Institutional Subscribers to the Journal has remained almost the same for several years. Although the Society does not benefit financially from their patronage, through the Journal, they provide the ARS with very wide exposure across the world.

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Complimentary memberships at 31 December 2022

At 31 December 2022, the Society had 32 complimentary members, as shown in the table below. As noted above, one of these complimentary members pays annual subscriptions, which is generous and appreciated.

Complimentary Members in 2022	Number
Fellows of the ARS	6
Past Fellows of the ARS	1
Chair of the Publications Committee	1
Editor in Chief, <i>The Rangeland Journal</i>	1
Editor, <i>Range Management Newsletter</i>	1
Editor, ARS Website	1
Editor, ARS Social Media (handover between the retiring and new SME editor occurred during the year (the retiring SME Editor membership expired at 31 December 2022)	2
Associate Editors, <i>The Rangeland Journal</i>	15
Prize winners at the 21 st Biennial ARS Conference, Longreach 2021 (expired at 31 December 2022)	3
One Qld consultant as thanks for <i>pro bono</i> services provided to the ARS (expired at 31 December 2022)	1
Total	32

Those complimentary members whose membership expired at 31 December 2022 have been invited to continue as financial members in 2023.

Membership trends through years

As shown in the table below, membership numbers have been relatively stable across the years since 2014. There is always a 'boost' in the number of new members during a conference year, as shown in 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2021, but there is also a similar number allowing their membership to lapse. These people are not lost to the Society, as their names are retained in the database as 'inactive members', and they receive invitations to renew their membership and attend the biennial conferences.

Category	Membership at 31 December								
	2014	2015*	2016	2017*	2018	2019*	2020	2021*	2022 ^a
ARS members at 31 December	220	221	182	231	209	224	202	196	206
ARS Members joined during year	22	37	38	71	16	39	10	20	20
ARS Members left during year	48	36	77	22	38	14	32	26	10
Institutional subscribers to TRJ	91	100	90	91	93	93	89	89	85

* conference year

^a includes 32 complimentary members.

Awards and Prizes

Fellowships

There were no nominations for Fellowships received in 2022.

Travel Grants

Two travel grants were approved during 2022. A grant was approved for Dr Bradd Witt to attend the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef conference in the USA in November 2022. The grant was subsequently declined by Dr Witt as the conference organisers covered his travel and conference expenses. A grant was also approved for Dr Nicole Spiegel to attend the International Grassland Congress in the USA in May 2023, however this was subsequently declined by Dr Spiegel in early 2023 due to her increasing work commitments.

Award of Excellence in Rangeland Management

The inaugural Award of Excellence in Rangeland Management was approved for Mr Tom Mann of 'Hillgrove Station' Charters Towers, Queensland. The award was presented to Tom in early 2023. An article about Tom Mann's contribution to rangeland management was published in *Range Management Newsletter* 22/1: <https://austrangesoc.com.au/inaugural-award-of-excellence-in-rangeland-management/>.

This award recognises people who have made, or are making, a significant contribution to rangeland management, across biophysical, economic, social and governance domains.

Changes in membership being introduced in 2023.

Cessation of publication of *The Rangeland Journal* in hard copy

After 46 years of publication, and 44 volumes of *The Rangeland Journal*, sadly, hardcopy publication will come to an end with the last issue of Volume 44, which is expected to come off the presses in April 2023. There are three main reasons for this change.

1. A majority of members of the Australian Rangeland Society are now receiving *The Rangeland Journal* in electronic form, which means they access it via the members' area on the ARS website, which also enables them to download papers at no cost. Further, nearly all institutional subscribers to the Journal access the electronic version.
2. As a consequence of this move to an 'electronic Journal' at 31 December 2022, there were only **93 members** receiving hardcopy issues of the Journal in the post. CSIRO Publishing advised that it is becoming increasingly difficult financially to justify a hardcopy print run for this small number of copies. Printing and posting the Journal is a significant financial burden on the Society.
3. The move to on-line issues of scientific journals is occurring rapidly across the world, and we need to keep up with this trend if the Journal is able to build its credibility and recognition in an increasingly busy environment.

Move to automatic renewal of membership

To improve the efficiency of membership renewal, and to reduce the difficulty experienced by some members in renewing, the ARS Council decided to commence offering automatic renewals of membership in 2023, when a member's renewal date occurs.

Those members who do not wish for automatic renewal will be able to continue with manual renewal.

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Committees

In addition to Council, the Society continues to rely heavily on volunteers who fulfil vital roles.

Publications Committee (Chair – Dr Bradd Witt)

The Publications Committee comprised the following members as at 31 December 2022. The committee meets between Council meetings and provides a report to the subsequent Council meeting with recommendations for Council's consideration. The Publications Committee met six times during 2022. All meetings were conducted by Zoom.

Name	Role
Dr Andrew Ash	A/Chair (until 30 January 2022)
Dr Bradd Witt	Chair (from 30 January 2022)
Dr Paul Novelly	Editor-in-Chief, <i>The Rangeland Journal</i>
Dr Noelene Duckett	Editor, <i>Range Management Newsletter</i>
Ms Jayne Cuddihy	Website Editor
Ms Linda Date	Social Media Editor (from 13 June 2022)
Dr Donald Burnside	Committee member
Dr Erlina Compton	Committee member (from 11 May 2022)
Dr Robyn Cowley	Committee member
Dr Sarah McDonald	Committee member
Dr Jen Silcock	Committee member

Dr Andrew Ash continued as Interim Chair of the Publications Committee until Dr Bradd Witt (University of Queensland) was formally appointed on 31 January 2022. Dr Ash continued to chair the meetings during a transition phase until Dr Witt took over at the meeting held on 11 May 2022. We thank Dr Ash for his considerable service over several years and his willingness to continue in the role until a new Chair was in place.

Daryl Green resigned from the committee on 11 May 2022 and was thanked for his service over several years. He was replaced by Dr Erlina Compton from Local Land Services in NSW.

Although she had formally resigned at the end of 2022, Sarah Moles graciously continued as A/Social Media Editor until Linda Date was appointed on 13 Jun 2022.

Associate Editors of *The Rangeland Journal*

There were 13 Associate Editors of *The Rangeland Journal* at 31 December 2022, as shown in the table below.

Dr Amin Mugera's three-year term as an Associate Editor for *The Rangeland Journal* ended on 22 May 2022 and he was thanked for his service.

Professor Babo Fadlalla from the Sudan University of Science and Technology, Khartoum, Sudan was welcomed as an Associate Editor in February 2022.

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Name	Country
Dr Steven Bray	Australia
Prof. Babo Fadlalla (from February 2022)	Sudan
Prof. Fujiang Hou	China
Prof. Bernard Hubert	France
Dr Sarah McDonald	Australia
Prof. Graciela Metternicht	Australia
Dr Tony Pressland	Australia
Dr Digby Race	Australia
Dr Rhiannon Smith	Australia
Dr Mark Stafford-Smith	Australia
Prof. Wei Sun	China
Dr Anne Waters-Bayer	Germany
Dr Ian Watson	Australia

Advisory Editors of *The Rangeland Journal*

There were eight Advisory Editors of the Journal at 31 December 2022, as shown below.

Name	Country
Dr Brandon Bestelmeyer	USA
Dr Joel Brown	USA
Dr Margaret Friedel	Australia
Prof. Iain Gordon	Australia
Prof. Jikun Huang	China
Prof. Deli Wang	China
Dr Ann Waters-Bayer	The Netherlands
Dr Iain Wright	Ethiopia

Publications

The Rangeland Journal (Editor-in-Chief – Dr Paul Novelty)

As at December 2022, Volume 44 consists of three Issues. Issue 1 consists of 59 printed papers (five papers), Issue 2 consists of 68 printed pages (four papers) and Issue 3 consists of 64 printed pages (6 papers). All are ‘standard Issues’. There were five papers already accepted for Issue 4 of the Journal, and CSIRO Publishing was requested to advise if there are sufficient papers and printed page numbers for publication. The move to virtual issues of the Journal will certainly make the publication of individual Issues more easily programmed, as there is no minimum paper number or printed page number required.

Issue 3 included a paper “Can dingoes increase graziers’ profits and help maintain Australia’s rangelands” from three producers (two from Queensland; one from Western Australia) and Barry Trail from Landholders for Dingoes. This paper was highlighted in the

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Rangeland Management Newsletter and hopefully further papers on this topic will be submitted.

The Special Issue (SI) from the 2021 ARS Longreach Biennial Conference is still in preparation as at December 2022. There were 12 manuscripts submitted, of which one has been rejected, one was classed as 'Reject and Resubmit' (and a revised version was submitted) and one has been withdrawn. Two papers have been assessed and returned to the authors for revision, with no further revision being received. Of the manuscripts submitted to the SI, six have been accepted as at December 2022.

Submissions remain down on numbers compared with five years ago. There were 60 submissions to *The Rangeland Journal* in calendar 2022 (including submissions to the SI). Details of the regional distribution are below and indicate an increase in submissions from the Middle East and a reduction in submissions from China. The 'Rest of the World' category were all from Africa. The extent to which the appointment of Dr Babo Fadlalla as an Associate Editor (the possible appointment of an Associate Editor from the Middle East was noted in the 2021 Annual Report) augmented submissions from the Middle East (Dr Fadlalla lives in the Sudan) is difficult to judge, but Dr Fadlalla is proving an excellent addition to the ranks of Associate Editors to the Journal. However, once again the quality of submissions varied, with 13 manuscripts rejected and a further nine manuscripts assessed as 'Reject & Resubmit'.

A possible SI based on carbon sequestration, greenhouse gas emissions abatement, biodiversity and environmental services is currently being canvassed, with an approach made to both the Associate and Advisory Editors seeking recommendations for potential authors from both Australia and overseas to ensure that if such an SI is published it is relevant internationally.

Number of submissions received by *The Rangeland Journal*

Year	Australia	New Zealand	Asia-Pacific (inc. China)	Middle East	Europe	North America	South America	Rest of World	Total
2022	21	0	12 (9 from China)	19	1	1	0	6	60
2021	14	0	11	23	1	1	1	7	58
2020	45	0	35	15	2	8	4	5	114
2019	27	0	30	9	6	4	5	7	88
2018	44	1	25	8	6	7	6	15	112
2017	35	0	32	19	16	6	9	10	127
2016	28	0	42	17	15	6	11	12	131
2015	52	0	24	17	12	4	8	10	127
2014	31	0	60	7	12	3	4	8	125
2013	35	1	41	14	9	7	8	12	127
2012	39	0	20	22	9	4	5	10	109
Average (2012-22)	33.7	0.2	30.2	15.5	8.1	4.6	5.5	9.3	107.1
Std Dev (2012-22)	11.1	0.4	14.3	5.5	5.4	2.4	3.3	3.0	26.7

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The number of institutional subscriptions in 2021 was 85 compared to 89 in 2020 and 93 in 2019. Consortia deals are counted as single subscriptions regardless of the number of campuses involved (which may be up to several hundred). Most institutional subscriptions (89 per cent) have been for online-only. These subscriptions promote rangelands and Australia to an extensive global audience, especially to students and staff within academic institutions.

Production details and analytics for volume 43

COUNTER (Counting Online Usage of NeTworked Electronic Resources) is an international initiative that sets standards for the recording and reporting of online usage statistics. CSIRO Publishing is bound by its Code of Practice and is COUNTER compliant.

Impact Factor

The Clarivate Impact Factor centres on a narrow window of citation, based on citations to papers published in the previous 2 years. The citation Impact Factor for 2020 was 1.09, like that in 2019.

In Table 10 the Clarivate two-year and five-year impact factors are shown alongside citation ranking and quartile (for each category in which the journal is listed); Scopus SNIP and Citescore.

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Impact Factor (IF)	1.080	1.019	1.089	1.090
5-yr IF	1.206	1.642	1.306	1.510
Total cites	678	925	859	1,150
Cites in Y to (Y-1)+(Y-2) items	122	105	110	109
Items published in (Y-1)+(Y-2)	113	103	101	100
Self-cites (% of total cites)	26 (21%)	23 (22%)	19 (17%)	31 (28%)
Citation ranking ^A (Quartile)	119/160 (Q3)	133/165 (Q4)	136/169 (Q4)	144/166 (Q4)
SNIP	0.63	0.75	0.63	0.69
Citescore	1.2	1.5	2.3	2.5

5-year impact factor: the number of cites in Y to items published in the previous 5 years, divided by the number of items published in the previous 5 years.

Total cites: the number of cites in year Y to all journal content (e.g., from 1901 to Y).

SNIP: Source-Normalized Impact per Paper. It measures contextual citation impact by weighting citations based on the total number of citations in a subject field, using Scopus data.

Citescore: the number of citations received by a journal in one year to documents published in the three previous years, divided by the number of documents indexed in Scopus published in those same three years.

^Acategory: Ecology.

Downloads

The journal has a significant web presence on the CSIRO Publishing site. Archival back content is available to all subscribers (volumes 1–43, years 1976–2021). In 2021 there was a 9 per cent increase in downloads compared with 2020. Also, Crossref resolutions increased but page visits decreased.

Web downloads (full-text HTML/PDF) are measured initially based on usage from the CSIRO Publishing website. Systematic filters are applied to exclude downloads of content by

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crawlers or internet 'bots'. Data in 2018 reflect enhanced filtering of crawler activity. Filters are constantly being refined to remove increasingly sophisticated crawlers, as their activity may compromise the data.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Downloads	43,805	32,065	47,617	62,305	68,048
Page visits	66,531	74,026	78,093	96,542	86,334
Crossref resolutions	34,551	43,350	74,840	92,707	147,065

Downloads (HTML/PDF)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Vol. 34 (2012)	1241	1218	763	792	963	786
Vol. 35 (2013)	1524	1781	1506	2347	2340	1607
Vol. 36 (2014)	5137	5793	3862	6483	7442	5708
Vol. 37 (2015)	3452	2825	1545	2356	2695	2149
Vol. 38 (2016)	3471	2841	1599	1966	2378	1540
Vol. 39 (2017)		3814	6351	3386	3911	3276
Vol. 40 (2018)		-	3640	5378	5304	3852
Vol. 41 (2019)		-	-	5295	8749	5753
Vol. 42 (2020)		-	-	-	3261	3,166
Vol. 43 (2021)		-	-	-	-	2961
TOTAL (All Years)	34,681	43,805	32,065	47,617	62,305	68,048

The Society Website (Editor: Jayne Cuddihy)

It's been a year of consolidation for the Society website (<http://austrangesoc.com.au/>). Jayne Cuddihy, a freelance journalist with close links to a family grazing business in the Queensland rangelands took over as website editor from Russell Grant and took the opportunity to reassess the current reach and function of the site. After wide consultation, it's been generally agreed that the site needs a 'modernising facelift' while maintaining the core purpose of an information access point for ARS members and the overall rangelands community.

The website will continue to complement our social media presence, namely through Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, but a more streamlined content, including a photography database is needed. It's also a vital long-term archive of ARS resources and the main portal for memberships, including payments. With the global move from printed to online journals, the website will only increase in importance to be well presented and user friendly.

The website includes public information as well as a Members Only area which provides a cost-free link to current and archived editions of *The Rangeland Journal* held by CSIRO Publishing. The *Range Management Newsletter* is available on the website as open access to improve the profile of this publication.

There have been minor new page additions, namely around the 2023 ARS Biennial Conference in Broome and updating of Society archives. Content has been periodically updated as it has become available, though problems with the hosting of the site and its accessibility and function have been major issues.

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There has been a significant archive of video and recorded presentations, abstracts, papers and posters from the 2021 Longreach conference added and can be found here <https://austrangesoc.com.au/biennial-conference/21st-biennial-conference-2021>.

Google Analytics data indicates that the most visited pages included:

- The Home Page
- 21st Biennial Conference 2021
- 22nd Biennial Conference, 2023, which linked to the official conference website
- The Members Area and My Account
- Save the Date! ARS Conference in Broome in 2023
- About Us.

Most traffic is direct (users entering the website address directly into browsers), but the majority of referrals have come from Facebook posts, Wikipedia entries and direct email links (which would be from the *Range Management Newsletter*). Monthly visitation has been relatively consistent with an average of 620 sessions per month with 1461 page views. The majority of site visitors are Australian, followed by USA, China, South Korea and the UK. Interestingly 74 per cent of visitors are new to the site, with the remainder being returning visitors.

However, the website membership and subscription system in particular continued to experience some functionality issues which at times created customer service difficulties for the Director, Finance and Audit. The current website host provides a very cost effective and economical site maintenance package but as a consequence the level of support has been insufficient to resolve all issues within required timeframes. The complexity of the site, with a number of functions means that it demands more expertise than our current subscription provides. Discussions about sourcing a new hosting site and provider are underway, subject to relevant committee and Council approval.

The *Range Management Newsletter* (Editor: Dr Noelene Duckett)

Three issues of the *Rangeland Management Newsletter* (RMN) were uploaded to the website in 2022 in April, July and November. Issues contained 15-16 individual items made up of a mix of one-off volunteered pieces and recurring reports. The volunteered articles covered a broad spread of issues related to the rangelands including summaries of recent rangeland publications, highlights of meeting and conferences, historical items of interest and rangeland research and observations. Each RMN also included reports updating readers on *The Rangeland Journal* (TRJ), general ARS business (membership, biennial conference, Council business) as well as the Hot Off the Press section highlighting recent articles from a variety of publications across the rangelands.

The number of people viewing each issue of the newsletter on the ARS website continued to be tracked by Google Analytics, and it was pleasing to see strong viewing numbers for each newsletter. Summary statistics for the year show RMN 22/1 was accessed by 182 viewers, RMN 22/2 by 247 viewers and RMN 22/3 by 141 viewers (data until 31/12/22 only). Past issues found in the RMN archive were also viewed 224 times during 2022. This indicates that total views for all issues over the year was 794, which is an increase of 15.6 per cent from 2021. The most viewed articles published in 2022 included *What's your view of dingoes in the rangelands* (Paul Novelly – RMN 22/2), *Vale Tony Grice* (RMN 22/1) and *Cactus hunting and control in the Shire of Leonora* (David Fitzgerald et al. – RMN 22/2). Articles from previous years with the most pageviews include *Vale Peter McRae* (RMN 18/3), *IRC*

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Adelaide June 2025 – Volunteers wanted (RMN 21/1), *The survivors – recent observations of introduced pasture plants in western Queensland* (Richard Silcock – RMN 21/3) and *Improved tactical decision making – an approach to grazing management training in the rangelands* (Tanisha Shields – RMN 21/3).

Particular effort was made in 2022 to increase the links between the newsletter and TRJ, with an article related to the journal included in each issue. In July, a review article by *The Rangeland Journal* Editor-in-Chief Paul Novelly was included to gain comment and stimulate discussion and possible submissions to the Journal in support or opposed to the thesis presented in a recently accepted Journal article – G Campbell *et al* (2022). *Can dingoes increase graziers' profits and help maintain Australia's rangelands*. TRJ 44 (3), 129-135. While Paul's article, which was heavily promoted through email and social media, did receive the most views for the year, our efforts to obtain feedback and promote discussion on this topic were unsuccessful, and to date no submissions ("A Comment on ...") have been received by TRJ or RMN.

In 2023, efforts will continue to further increase the numbers accessing the *Range Management Newsletter*. Sourcing original content, particularly longer research and general interest articles, will continue to be a priority as these appear to be the most popular with viewers. Further efforts will be made to cross-promote items of interest with the Society's other publications (the Journal, website and social media) with the aim of increasing awareness of recently published articles and to stimulate feedback and discussion.

Social Media (Editor: Linda Date)

Our social media presence on three platforms – Facebook, Twitter and Instagram - helps the ARS maintain its standing as an authority on evidence-based research and sustainable management of the rangelands; ensures our members and followers are kept abreast of topical issues; and ensures that relevant current issues are regularly circulating. We had a rebrand in 2022 with the new and modern ARS logo, which was updated accordingly on all our social media channels.

During 2022, the Social Media Editor (SME) continued to post content reflecting the three pillars of our social media engagement strategy, including news from other relevant organisations, and promotion of articles from current issues of *The Rangeland Journal*. We also endeavoured to make followers aware of opportunities in the rangelands sector, from interesting webinars and networking events, to scholarships, grants and relevant job opportunities. The ARS media channels have featured and continue to feature photos submitted by the community, including from the ARS Council and Society members. More recently, we have also had contributions on the Facebook page from an external marketing agency in order to promote the 22nd Biennial Conference, 'Action Stations'.

The SME has aimed to post 2-3 times per week on Facebook, a few times a month on Instagram, and on Twitter where appropriate. At time of writing (February 2023), the ARS has 1,302 Facebook followers, 1,366 Instagram followers and 1,453 Twitter followers. The most popular posts, which had the highest amount of follower engagement and reach, were a notice for The Society for Range Management's annual conference, and a post about a grants round for the Long-term Trials of Drought Resilient Farming Practices Program. There was also plenty of follower interest in the upcoming 22nd Biennial Conference, promotion of which is ongoing into 2023.

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The SME is grateful for contributions from members of the society and publications committee, including photos, relevant news, and content to share with ARS followers.

Organising Committee for the XIIIth International Rangeland Congress (IRC), Adelaide 6-10 June 2025.

A new International Rangeland Congress Organising Committee was appointed early in 2021 to provide a legal governance framework to organise the 2025 Adelaide conference. A separate Company, limited by Guarantee was set up to provide a ‘firewall’ between the ARS and the XIIIth International Rangeland Congress Limited (IRC2025). However, the ARS provided a loan of \$20,000 to the IRC2025 in 2021 to provide seed funding for the event. This loan will be repaid after the Congress concludes in 2025.

The main Organising Committee comprises chairs of the sub-committees, supported by representatives covering all aspects of IRC planning and delivery. These have been drawn from ARS members and others as shown below. Each sub-committee has additional members not shown here.

Name	Sub-Committee
Dr Andrew Ash (Co-Chair 2022)	Sponsorship, Program and Publications
Dr Nicole Spiegel (Co-Chair 2022)	IRC Continuing Committee Liaison, International Liaison and Publicity, and Delegate and Developing Country Support
Dr David Phelps	IRC Continuing Committee Liaison, International Liaison and Publicity and Pre-Congress Tours
Pieter Conradie	Logistics
Sarah Nicolson	Logistics and Secretarial
Dr Don Burnside	Finance and Pre-Congress Tours
Dr Andrew Ash (Co-Chair vacant at 31 December 2022)	Sponsorship
Dr Sarah McDonald	Program and Publications
Dr Cecile Godde	Program and Publications
Dr Graciela Metternicht	Program and Publications
Professor Stephen van Leeuwen	Indigenous Oversight
John Gavin	Pre-Congress Tours
Sally Leigo	Social Program

A Professional Conference Organiser (PCO) – All Occasions Group (AOG), based in Adelaide – was appointed to work with the Organising Committee, and members of the Committee have met AOG in Adelaide.

In 2022, the main activities have been the circulation of First and Second Announcements in several languages (English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Portuguese) to the wider international rangeland community (9,000 email addresses), the development of a Draft Program, refinement of the IRC2025 website and social media platforms, and review of the budget. Formal reports are provided to the International Rangeland Congress Continuing Committee which has representation from all of the world’s rangeland regions.

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Organising Committee for the 22nd Biennial Conference of the Australian Rangeland Society, to be held in Broome WA, 18-22 September 2023

Planning for the Australian Rangeland Society 22nd Biennial Conference, Broome 18-22 September 2023 is progressing well. The conference Organising Committee is shown in the table below.

Name	Affiliation
Matthew Fletcher (Chair)	ARS Council Representative, Kununurra
Dr Don Burnside	DG Burnside & Associates, Perth
Jardine Macdonald	Rangelands NRM, Broome
Grey Mackay	Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen's Association
Jennifer Duffecy	Duffecy Consulting, Perth
Dr Chris Hetherington	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Kununurra
Kath Ryan	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Kununurra
Josh Foster	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Geraldton

Associated Advertising & Promotions were appointed professional conference organisers and have been working with the Organising Committee since July 2022.

The Broome conference will be exploring the theme: **Action Stations** and we hope to make progress on the following topics:

- Coming to grips with carbon, green energy and natural capital
- Science, satellites and success
- Resilience in a land of drought and flooding rains
- Traditional Owner aspirations and knowledge
- Where/what is the cutting edge technology
- Passing the baton to the next generation

Achievements as at 31 December 2022 include finalising the conference website, sponsorship prospectus, call for abstracts/submission portal and 'early career' registration discount.

The Organising Committee's next focus is securing sponsorship to help with subsidising early career practitioners, guest speaker expenses/venue hire/field trips/conference dinner/etc. There are numerous funding submissions currently in the pipeline which the organising committee is awaiting a response.

An unexpected benefit so far has been the availability of discounted flights from Perth to Broome. This initiative, made available by the WA Government was to drive visitors to the Kimberley as part of a 'flood recovery package'.

Over the next few months the Organising Committee will be finalising guest speakers, putting the conference program together and reviewing abstracts.

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Financial Report

The financial affairs of the Society remain on an adequate footing with a modest loss from ordinary activities of \$9,092 in 2022 (loss of \$11,098 in 2021) and total equity/accumulated surplus of \$153,671 at 31 December 2022 (2021: \$162,763).

The Society's total equity at 31 December 2022 was \$153,671 which is considered adequate to cover any liabilities.

The Society maintains appropriate systems and protocols to allow it to complete its commitments to standard reporting of its financial position as required under law.

The key income sources for the ARS are conferences (with a minimum profit target of \$20,000 and Special Issues of *The Rangeland Journal*. The ARS Council has remained committed to encouraging membership by keeping fees low (and unchanged since 2016), whilst balancing this with other income streams.

Identifying organisations wishing to edit and pay for Special Issues is an on-going challenge for the Publications Committee. There is an increasing—but as-of-yet poorly defined—risk of this income stream decreasing. Further, the increasing trend of Open Access articles in international journals creates additional competition in attracting submissions.

Other matters

Nil.

Subsequent events

The impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is on-going and it is not practicable to estimate the potential impact, positive or negative, after the reporting date. The situation is continues to develop and is dependent on measures imposed by the Australian Government and other countries, such as maintaining social distancing requirements, quarantine, travel restrictions and any economic stimulus that has been provided. The main areas of risk are to conference attendance and travel awards, travel restrictions are easing but the perceived risk of Covid 19 still exists albeit that the virus symptoms are more moderate than in previous years.

No other matter or circumstance has arisen since 31 December 2022 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the company's operations, the results of those operations, or the company's state of affairs in future financial years.

Future developments

Likely developments in the operations of the Society and the expected results of those operations in future financial years have not been included in this report as the inclusion of such information is likely to result in unreasonable prejudice to the Society.

Environmental issues

The Society's operations are not regulated by any significant environmental regulation under a law of the Commonwealth or of a State or Territory.

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Dividends paid, recommended and declared

Under Clause 3 of the Articles and Memorandum of Association of the Society, no dividends shall be paid to any persons who are members of the Society; consequently, no dividends have been paid or recommended.

Share capital and options

The Society is a company limited by guarantee and does not have any share capital. Consequently, no share options have been issued and none are outstanding at the end of the financial year.

Indemnification of officers and auditors

No indemnities have been given or insurance premiums paid, during or since the end of the financial year, for any person who is or has been an officer or auditor of the Society.

No person has applied for leave of Court to bring proceedings on behalf of the Society or intervene in any proceedings to which the Society is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the Society for all or any part of those proceedings.

The Society was not a party to any such proceedings during the year.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors;

 2023 Annual Report 2023

Dionne Walsh
Director



Donald Burnside
Director

Dated this 17th day of April 2023.

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FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	2022 \$	2021 \$
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Income from ordinary activities	2	42,298	32,709
Journal Costs		(22,182)	(22,182)
Conference Costs		(9,873)	-
Newsletter Costs		(2,500)	(2,500)
Other expenses		(16,835)	(19,125)
(Loss) from ordinary activities		<u>(9,092)</u>	<u>(11,098)</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached audit report.

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	2022 \$	2021 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash Assets	4	<u>51,289</u>	<u>45,903</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>51,289</u>	<u>45,903</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Loan IRC 2025		20,000	20,000
Term Deposits		<u>110,739</u>	<u>110,739</u>
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>130,739</u>	<u>130,739</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>182,028</u>	<u>176,642</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	5	<u>28,357</u>	<u>13,879</u>
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>28,357</u>	<u>13,879</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>153,671</u>	<u>162,763</u>
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus	6	<u>153,671</u>	<u>162,763</u>
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>153,671</u>	<u>162,763</u>

*The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.
These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached audit report.*

THE AUSTRALIAN RANGELAND SOCIETY
ABN 43 008 784 414

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	2022 \$	2021 \$
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from members and others		37,037	46,694
Interest received		493	1,055
Payments to suppliers		<u>(53,600)</u>	<u>(42,997)</u>
Net Cash from operating activities	7(b)	<u>(16,070)</u>	<u>4,752</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Loan IRC 2025		-	(20,000)
Redeem of Term deposit		-	39,697
Funds Received – Held in Trust		<u>21,456</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Cash from investing activities		<u>21,456</u>	<u>19,697</u>
Net Increase in Cash held		5,386	24,449
Cash at Beginning of the year		<u>45,903</u>	<u>21,454</u>
Cash at End of the year	7(a)	<u>51,289</u>	<u>45,903</u>

*The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.
These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached audit report.*

THE AUSTRALIAN RANGELAND SOCIETY
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NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This special purpose financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the directors' financial reporting requirements. The financial statements comply with those Accounting Standards and UIG Consensus Views (if any) deemed necessary by the directors in the circumstances to meet the objectives of the special report. The Society is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where stated, current valuations of non-current assets. Cost is based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the Society in the preparation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

a) Income Tax

The directors have assessed that the Society has no current liability to income tax for the 2022 year.

b) Cash

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand and at call deposits with banks or financial institutions, investments in money market instruments maturing within less than two months and net of bank overdrafts.

c) Income

Membership fees are recognised when they are receivable.

All income is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

d) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Income, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of the acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the statement financial positions are shown inclusive of GST.

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ABN 43 008 784 414

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES – Cont'd

e) Members' Guarantee

The Society is limited by guarantee. If the Society is wound up, the Articles and Memorandum of Association states that each member including those members ceasing membership within one year of that date is required to contribute a maximum of \$10 each towards the meeting any outstanding obligations of the society. As at 31st December 2022, the number of members was 206 (2021: 196).

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
2. Income		
Operating activities		
Conferences	25,000	200
Membership fees	13,962	16,230
Bank interest	493	1,055
Journal income	2,843	14,442
Sundry income	-	782
	<u>42,298</u>	<u>32,709</u>

3. Profit from ordinary activities

Profit from ordinary activities before income tax expense has been determined after:

(a) Expenses:

Bank Charges	255	240
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4. Cash Assets

Commonwealth Saver	23,044	31,821
Commonwealth Operating	1,088	665
Membership	652	12,608
National Conference	5,029	789
Crowd Funding Account	21,476	20
Cash and Cash Equivalents	51,289	45,903

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NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
5. Payables		
GST Payable	(382)	1,018
Accounts Payable	-	810
Memberships in Advance	7,283	12,051
Funds Held in Trust	<u>21,456</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>28,357</u>	<u>13,879</u>
 6. Accumulated Surplus/ Change in Equity		
Accumulated surplus at the beginning of the financial year	162,763	173,861
Net Profit/(loss) attributable to members of the Society	<u>(9,092)</u>	<u>(11,098)</u>
Accumulated surplus at the end of the financial year	<u>153,671</u>	<u>162,763</u>

7. Cash Flow information

(a) Reconciliation of Cash

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statements of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:

Cash at Bank and on Hand	<u>51,289</u>	<u>45,903</u>
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(b) Reconciliation of cash flow from operations with loss from ordinary activities:

(Loss) from ordinary activities	(9,092)	(11,098)
Changes in assets and liabilities		
decrease in receivables	-	1,971
Increase/(Decrease) in payables	<u>(6,978)</u>	<u>13,879</u>
Cash flows from operating activities	<u>(16,070)</u>	<u>4,752</u>

THE AUSTRALIAN RANGELAND SOCIETY
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NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

8. Related Party Transactions

During the year, honoraria amounting to \$13,030.65 (excl GST) were paid (2021: \$11,137.50).

- \$2,292 to Dr Bradd Witt for his role as Chair of the Publications Committee from 30 January to 31 December 2022.
- \$4,000 to Dr Paul Novelly for his role as Editor-in-Chief, *The Rangeland Journal*; in 2022;
- \$2,500 to Dr Noelene Duckett for her role as Editor, *Range Management Newsletter* in 2022;
- \$2,862 to Jayne Cuddihy for her role as Website Editor from 9 November 2021 to 31 December 2022;
- \$1,376.65 to Linda Date for her role as Social Media Editor from 13 June to 31 December 2022.

All payments were made excluding GST. These amounts are in accordance with the reviews of honoraria undertaken by the Council in 2017.

In 2022, \$2,100 was paid to Lee Green and Co for the Audit, and \$2,430 was paid to Integrity Taxation for bookkeeping services.

9. Subsequent Events

The impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is ongoing and it is not practicable to estimate the potential impact, positive or negative, after the reporting date. The situation is dependent on measures imposed by the Australian Government, State Governments and other countries, such as maintaining social distancing, quarantine, travel restrictions and any economic stimulus that may be provided.

No other matter or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affect the operations of the Society in future financial years.

10. Society Details

The registered office of the Society is:
THE AUSTRALIAN RANGELAND SOCIETY
29 Woodsome Street
MOUNT LAWLEY WA 6050

The principal place of business is:
THE AUSTRALIAN RANGELAND SOCIETY
29 Woodsome Street
MOUNT LAWLEY WA 6050

**THE AUSTRALIAN RANGELAND SOCIETY
ABN 43 008 784 414**

DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

The directors of the Society declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 16 to 25
 - (a) Comply with Accounting Standards and the Corporations Act 2001; and
 - (b) Give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 31st December 2021 and performance for the year ended on that date of the Society.

2. In the directors' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Society will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

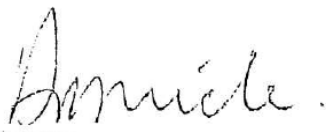
This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.

For and on behalf of the board



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DIONNE WALSH
Director



DONALD BURNSIDE
Director

Dated this 17th day of April 2023.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of The Australian Rangeland Society

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of The Australian Rangeland Society (the 'Society'), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2022, the statement of comprehensive income, and the cash flow statement for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements and the director's declaration.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of The Australian Rangeland Society has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of its constitution and its members, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the Society's financial position as at 31 December 2022 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) complies with the Society's constitution requirements and to the extent described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

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Lee Green & Co Pty Ltd
ACN: 008 215 094
ABN: 76 008 215 094

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Society in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Society's financial reporting responsibilities under the constitution. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other Information

The Directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Society's annual report for the year ended 31 December 2022, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report

The Directors of the Society are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the constitution and the needs of its members. The Directors responsibilities also include such internal control as they determine is



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necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Directors are responsible for assessing the Society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Directors either intend to liquidate the Society or cease operations or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Directors are responsible for overseeing the Society's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or other error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Directors use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Society's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Society to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

LEE GREEN



DAVID CHARLESWORTH
Principal

Dated this 20th day of April 2023

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DULWICH SA 5065