

THE AUSTRALIAN RANGELAND SOCIETY

ABN 43 008 784 414

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**Australian  
Rangeland  
Society**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025



THE AUSTRALIAN RANGELAND SOCIETY

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*Devils Marbles, NT. Photo: Harriet Bowden*

## **DIRECTORS' REPORT**

### **Summary**

Your Directors present their report on the Australian Rangeland Society (ARS) for the year ended 31st December 2025.

The Society promotes the advancement of the science and art of using Australia's rangeland resources for all purposes commensurate with their continued sustainability and productivity.

The principal work of the Society includes publishing and circulating the *Range Management Newsletter* and *The Rangeland Journal*, convening the biennial Australian Rangeland Conference, providing grants to assist members with travel and research, maintaining a publicly accessible website, and managing social media platforms.

The financial affairs of the Society are reasonably secure. We are pleased to report that the Society has received another unqualified audit for the year, confirming the proper management of the Society's books.

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Our reserves have decreased over FY2025, with Total Members Equity falling from \$187,667 to \$136,140. This is largely accounted for through decisions by Council to invest a portion of the Society's reserves into a number of promotional and enhancement activities aimed at growing membership, participation, and relevance.

We are now maintaining a cautious financial posture to ensure risks associated with the upcoming Darwin Conference can be managed appropriately. Full details are provided in the Financial Report concluding this document.



*Saline soil plain near Coober Pedy. Photo: Bob Shepherd*

### President's report

*Presented by Pieter Conradie, Director & President*

It is my pleasure and great honour to present the President's report for the year ending 2025. This past year has been extraordinary, marked by significant milestones and achievements that highlight the Australian Rangeland Society's commitment to advancing rangeland management and celebrating the global importance of rangelands.

One of the most notable events of the year was our Society's 50th anniversary, which coincided with the first day of the XII International Rangelands Congress (IRC) in Adelaide. This milestone was celebrated with a nostalgic trip through our history, led by Margaret Friedel (1970s), Ron Hacker (1980–2010), and John Taylor (2010–present). Their reflections were both inspiring and humbling, reminding us of how far the Society has come over five decades.

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*Past Presidents of the ARS, celebrating the Society's 50th at the Adelaide IRC 2025.*

*L-R Front: John Taylor, Alec Holm, Dionne Walsh, Margaret Friedel*

*L-R Back: Martin Andrew, Pieter Conradie, Ken Hodgkinson, David Phelps*

Jaidyn Eastaughffe, representing the next generation, provided an exciting glimpse into the future of ARS. The event also included video messages of congratulations from around the world. I would like to extend my gratitude to everyone who contributed to this celebration, particularly Dionne Walsh, who served as the MC, and John Taylor, who created the commemorative booklet, *Capturing 50 Years of the Australian Rangeland Society*.



*Pieter Conradie formally recognising Don Burnside as a Fellow of the Australian Rangeland Society.*

A key highlight of the year was the recognition of Don Burnside, who was honoured with the prestigious Fellow of the Australian Rangeland Society award. This recognition acknowledges his distinguished service and invaluable contributions to the art, science, and communication of rangeland management. Don's roles as Editor of the Range Management Newsletter, President of the WA Branch, Director - Finance and Audit, member of the Publication Committee, and Chairperson of the ARS and IRC organising Committees demonstrate his unwavering dedication to the Society.

Another significant achievement in 2025 was hosting the XII International Rangelands Congress, which brought together nearly 750 delegates from 48 countries in Adelaide. This event showcased the diversity and importance of rangelands through pre-congress tours, keynote presentations, research posters, and networking opportunities.

I am deeply grateful to the Organising Committee, co-chaired by Don Burnside and Cathy Waters, with support from Andrew Ash, Nicole Spiegel, and the entire team, for their tireless efforts in ensuring the success of this Congress. Australia is punching above its weight with both Dana Kelly and David Phelps having chaired the IRC Continuing Committee over the past few years.

In October, I had the privilege of attending the Australian launch of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026 (IYRP) in Perth. Dana Kelly's extensive advocacy and outreach across Australia has been vital in promoting the IYRP. One of the ARS's major contributions to the IYRP thereby raising awareness about the significance of rangelands and pastoralists on a global scale. While the ARS's biggest IYRP activity in 2026 will be our September conference in Darwin, there will be other IYRP themed activities each month for the year.

This year also saw significant progress in the management of our Society's publications and digital presence. The Publication Committee, ably led by Bradd Witt, oversees The Rangeland Journal, Range Management Newsletter, our website, and social media. Special thanks go to Paul Novelly (Editor-in-Chief), Noelene Duckett (Newsletter Editor), and Jayne Cuddihy (Website Editor), whose contributions have been exceptional. We welcomed Harriet Bawden as Social Media Editor in October 2025, and she has already made a significant impact by implementing a focused media plan to elevate our online profile.

A major challenge in 2025 was the recovery of our digital archives following a website crash. Under Jayne Cuddihy's leadership, over 520 documents, including conference proceedings and committee records, were restored and organised into Google Drive, with links now available on the ARS website. Historical conference proceedings were prioritised, ensuring that abstracts and recent papers are easily accessible. Web stats from Jan to May 2026 show 10,000 active users and strong interest in conference materials, underscoring the importance of maintaining this resource.

Preparations for the 2026 ARS Conference, 7-11 Sept in Darwin are well underway. The Organising Committee, chaired by Jaidyn Eastaughffe is working hard to deliver a dynamic and engaging event. We look forward to the opportunity to connect with members and continue celebrating the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.

In closing, I would like to thank the ARS Council for their dedication throughout the year. John Brisbin has done an outstanding job in his demanding role as Director – Finance & Audit, as has Matt Fletcher with the membership portfolio and taken on additional responsibilities with enthusiasm. Kate Forest, Jaidyn Eastaughffe, and Warwick Badgery have provided invaluable support.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to Bob Shepherd, who is finishing his second and final term on Council. As Director and Secretary, Bob has been a pillar of strength, bringing efficiency, knowledge, and a deep commitment to the Society. On behalf of all members, I thank Bob for his selfless contributions and look forward to his continued involvement.

In conclusion, 2025 has been a remarkable year for the Australian Rangeland Society. From celebrating our past achievements to hosting a successful International Rangelands Congress and preparing for an exciting year ahead with the IYRP and our 2026 conference, we have much to be proud of.



*Bright futures ahead. Photo: Harriet Bawden*

## About the ARS Council

*Prepared by Bob Shepherd, Director & Secretary*

The Society's governing Council met six times by videoconference and held an Annual General Meeting (AGM) for a total of seven meetings for the year. The agenda for every scheduled meeting included discussion of Membership, Finance and Publication Committee reports, matters related to the strategic direction of the Society, the Biennial Conferences of the Society, the International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists, and the International Rangelands Congress in Adelaide in 2025.

At the AGM held on 21 May 2025, the Office-Bearers and General Council members were confirmed for the year. Attendance at meetings (including AGM) during 2025 is noted as follows:

Councillor	Position	Meetings Attended	Eligible to attend
Pieter Conradie	Director & President	7	7
Bob Shepherd	Director & Secretary	6	7
John Brisbin	Director & Finance/Audit	6	7
Matt Fletcher	General member & Membership Officer	6	7
Warwick Badgery	General Member	5	7
Kate Forrest	General Member	3	7
Gay Crowley	General Member	3	3
Jaidyn Eastaughffe	General Member	4	7

*(Compiled by Secretary Bob Shepherd 8-3-2026)*



*Pre-dawn crossing the Lynd, FNQ. Photo: John Brisbin, CC-BY-SA-NC-4.0*

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

*Prepared by Matt Fletcher, Membership Officer*

As at 31 December 2025, the Australian Rangeland Society had 184 members, including 25 Complimentary members. Throughout the year, 21 new members joined the Society, while 45 members did not renew their membership.

Membership summary as of 31 December 2025	Total
Complimentary members	25
Concessional members	37
Company members	24
International members	0
Student members	3
Early Career	5
Standard members	90
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>184</b>

## Complimentary memberships

The Society had 25 Complimentary members during the reporting period, as shown in the table below. Notably, the number of ARS Fellows increased by one with the appointment of Donald Burnside, which is discussed further in the Fellowships section.

Complimentary Members as at January 2024	Number
Chair of the Publications Committee	1
Editor-in-Chief of <i>The Rangeland Journal</i>	1
Editor of the <i>Range Management Newsletter</i>	1
Editor of the ARS Website	1
Editor of the Social Media	1
Associate Editors of TRJ	12
ARS Fellows	7
ARS Fellow Emeritus	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>

## Membership structure and fees

During the reporting period, the Australian Rangeland Society Council introduced a new membership category, **Early Career**, designed to support and encourage participation from individuals in the first five years of their professional involvement in rangeland-related work. This category offers significantly reduced membership fees (see table below) and is available for up to three years. The introduction of this category aims to strengthen engagement with emerging professionals and foster long-term membership retention.

The Society has also discontinued the separate **International Member** category. This decision followed a review showing that international applicants consistently selected the Standard membership option instead. Current international members, recorded under either Complimentary or Standard membership, are located in the following countries:

- USA – 3
- China – 2
- Sudan – 1
- France – 1

Membership Category	3-Year membership	Annual membership
Complimentary members	\$0	\$0
Concessional members	\$285	\$100
Company members	\$385	\$135

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Student members	No option	\$80
Early Career members	No option	\$50
Standard members	\$315	\$110

### Membership trends through years

As shown in the table below, membership numbers have remained relatively stable since 2016. Membership typically experiences a noticeable increase during conference years—such as in 2017, 2019 and 2023—reflecting heightened engagement around these events. However, these increases are generally offset by a similar number of members allowing their membership to lapse in the same periods.

Category	Membership as at 31 December									
	2016	2017*	2018	2019*	2020	2021*	2022	2023*	2024	2025
ARS members at 31 December	182	231	209	224	202	196	206	230	209	184
ARS Members joined during year	38	71	16	39	10	20	20	42	13	21
ARS memberships lapsed during year	77	22	38	14	32	26	10	15	34	46
Institutional subscribers to TRJ	90	91	93	93	89	89	85	80	80	101

*\*Conference year.*

### Fellowships

The Fellowship award recognises individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to rangeland management—whether through science, practice, communication, or service to the Australian Rangeland Society.

In 2025, the Council considered a nomination for **Donald Grosvenor Burnside**, supported by eight current members. Following review, Council endorsed the nomination, and Don was formally awarded an ARS Fellowship at the Adelaide IRC in June 2025 during the Society’s 50th birthday celebration.

Don received this honour in recognition of his long and dedicated service to the Society over many decades, including his roles as Editor of the *Range Management Newsletter*; President of the WA Branch; Director and Finance & Audit Officer; Membership Officer; member of the Publications Committee; and Chairperson of both the ARS and IRC Conference Organising Committees. His professional expertise has significantly advanced knowledge in rangeland animal production and, in particular, strengthened the extension of sound rangeland management practices to the pastoral community in Western Australia.

As a private consultant, Don has contributed at a senior level to numerous reports of national and regional significance relating to the sustainable use of Australia's rangelands. Throughout his career, he has been known for his generosity of time and wisdom, especially in supporting and mentoring younger colleagues.

## Current Australian Rangeland Society Fellows

- Gary Bastin
- Donald Burnside
- Margaret Friedel
- Joan Gibbs
- Ron Hacker
- Kenneth Hodgkinson
- Ralph Whalley
- Allan Wilson (ARS Fellow Emeritus)

## Travel grants

No travel grants were approved in 2025.

## 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.

There were no Excellence in Rangeland Management awards presented in 2025.

## Institutional subscribers

In 2024 there were 80 institutional subscribers to *The Rangeland Journal*, this number increased to 101 in 2025 (see below).

There has been a marked increase in interest in both *The Rangeland Journal* and the broader CSIRO Publishing portfolio. Notably, the updated list includes several New Zealand institutions now subscribing to *The Rangeland Journal*, following the Council of Australian University Libraries' decision to extend their subscription to encompass all CSIRO journals.

The number of UK universities has also grown as a result of our agreement with Joint Information Systems Committee. In addition, several Chinese institutions appear on the list, reflecting not only their engagement with CSIRO Publishing but also a specific interest in *The Rangeland Journal*.

A number of Australian government departments have likewise demonstrated particular interest in the journal.

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Overall, the expansion of the subscriber base reflects the increasing visibility and reach of CSIRO Publishing, as well as the growing relevance of *The Rangeland Journal* among key industry stakeholders—including government departments and industry agencies—and in strategically significant regions such as China.

Adelaide University	Australia
Australian National University	Australia
Australia's Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation	Australia
Bond University	Australia
Central Land Council	Australia
Central Queensland University	Australia
Charles Darwin University	Australia
Charles Sturt University	Australia
CSIRO Black Mountain Library	Australia
Curtin University of Technology	Australia
Deakin University	Australia
Dept of Primary Industry (NT)	Australia
Dept of Environment & Science (QLD)	Australia
Dept of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry	Australia
Dept of Industry, Information Services (NSW)	Australia
Dept of Primary Industries & Regional Development (WA)	Australia
Dept of Primary Industries (QLD)	Australia
Dept of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions (WA)	Australia
Edith Cowan University Library	Australia
Federation University of Australia	Australia
Flinders University	Australia
Griffith University	Australia
James Cook University	Australia
La Trobe University	Australia
Macquarie University	Australia
Monash University	Australia
Murdoch University	Australia
National Library of Australia	Australia
NSW Department of Primary Industries	Australia
Parliamentary Library W A	Australia

Queensland University of Technology	Australia
Rmit University Library	Australia
Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria	Australia
Southern Cross University	Australia
Swinburne University Library	Australia
University of Adelaide	Australia
University of Canberra	Australia
University of Melbourne	Australia
University of New England	Australia
University of New South Wales	Australia
University of Newcastle	Australia
University of Notre Dame Australia	Australia
University of Queensland	Australia
University of South Australia	Australia
University of Southern Queensland	Australia
University of Sydney	Australia
University of Tasmania	Australia
University of Technology Sydney	Australia
University of The Sunshine Coast	Australia
University of Western Australia	Australia
University of Western Sydney	Australia
University of Wollongong	Australia
Victoria University of Technology	Australia
Western Sydney University	Australia
Unicamp Central	Brazil
Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada	Canada
Agricultural Information Institute - C/O Cnpiec	China
Gansu Agricultural University - China	China
Institute of Scientific & Technical - Nstl	China
Lanzhou University	China
Northeast Normal University, China	China
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	England

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Rothamsted Research	England	University of Otago Library	New Zealand
University of Birmingham	England	University of Waikato	New Zealand
Tartu University Library	Estonia	Victoria University of Wellington Library	New Zealand
Zbmed- Bo-P-HI	Germany	Nelson Mandela University	South Africa
Research4Life	Global	North West University	South Africa
Nogakubu Library Univ of Tokyo	Japan	University of Witwatersrand	South Africa
Universidad Nacional Autonoma De Mexico	Mexico	Colorado State University	USA
Wageningen University & Research - Library	Netherlands	New Mexico State University	USA
Auckland University of Technology	New Zealand	Oklahoma State University	USA
Bioeconomy Science Institute	New Zealand	Texas A&M University	USA
Bioeconomy Science Institute, Agresearch Group	New Zealand	Texas Technical University	USA
Earth Sciences New Zealand	New Zealand	University of California - Berkeley	USA
Landcare Research Nz Ltd	New Zealand	University of California - Davis	USA
Lincoln University Library	New Zealand	University of Florida	USA
Massey University Library - 21645623	New Zealand	University of Georgia Libraries	USA
Niwa	New Zealand	University of Miami	USA
Plant & Food Research	New Zealand	University of Minnesota	USA
University of Auckland	New Zealand	University of Nevada - Reno	USA
University of Canterbury	New Zealand	University of Washington	USA
		Utah State University	USA



*A spot of bother at Trimbles Crossing, Burke Development Rd, FNQ. Photo: John Brisbin CC-BY-SA-NC-4.0*



*Alice Springs to Adelaide Pre-congress tour: Campfire dinner at "Arid Recovery Reserve" Roxby Downs. Photo: Bob Shepherd*

## COMMITTEES

In addition to Council, the Society continues to rely heavily on volunteers who fulfil vital roles. We thank all the volunteers and officers who ensure these vital functions carry the Society forward.

### Publications Committee

*Report prepared by Dr Bradd Witt, Chair of the Publications Committee*

#### Committee Membership

Bradd Witt (Chair), Jayne Cuddihy, Paul Novelly, Robyn Cowley, Noelene Duckett, Jen Silcock, Don Burnside, Sarah McDonald, Erlina St Vincent, Harriet Bawden (Social Media Editor), Bob Shepherd (ARS Council representative), and Pat Hannah (CSIRO Publishing liaison).

#### Strategic Development of Collections

A central priority was the development of themed Collections to enhance the impact, visibility, and relevance of The Rangeland Journal (TRJ). The Adelaide IRC Collection progressed strongly, with funding secured and approval to make all papers open access. The IYRP (International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists) Collection advanced through structured planning, including development of themes and engagement with international working groups.

Additional initiatives included multifunctional pastoralism, tourism in rangelands (commissioned paper underway), savannah burning (contracted), and early scoping for a water in rangelands Collection. The Renewables and Rangelands Collection is challenged by limited human capacity, particularly the difficulty in securing guest editors and coordinating contributors. Overall, progress in Collections has been uneven and constrained by available leadership and resourcing.

### **Digital Infrastructure and Website Improvements**

A dedicated Publications Committee email group and identity were established, improving coordination and communication. Progress was made toward centralised document management, including integration with Google Drive. Website functionality improved with the addition of social media links, operational analytics, archive access, and general content updates, although usability issues such as the paper submission process remain.

### **Social Media Strategy and Growth**

A Social Media Editor role was established and operationalised, supported by Terms of Reference and improved communication systems. A more structured and proactive social media strategy has resulted in increased activity and engagement. Key priorities include increasing posting frequency, prioritising high-quality visual content, and reactivating LinkedIn as a professional networking platform.

### **Governance, Resourcing, and Committee Sustainability**

Succession for the Publications Committee Chair emerged as a critical issue, with the incumbent indicating the need to step down and difficulty identifying a successor. A formal honorarium of \$5,000 per annum was agreed, along with improved payment processes. The need for formal documentation to support continuity and transition between office bearers was identified. Broader governance work included clarifying roles, considering tenure, and strengthening engagement with ARS Council.

### **Integration with the 2026 Darwin Conference**

Planning is underway to align publications with the 2026 ARS Conference, including delivery of a paper-writing and project design workshop and exploration of a carbon-focused seminar linking research, policy, and practice.

### **Overall Assessment**

The 2025–2026 year saw solid progress in publication strategy, journal performance, and communications capability, with Collections playing a key role in increasing impact. However, progress has been constrained by limited human capacity, particularly evident in initiatives such as the Renewables and Rangelands Collection and ongoing leadership succession challenges. Continued progress will depend on strengthening resourcing, clarifying roles, and maintaining momentum in Collection development.

## ARS Website

*Prepared by Website Editor Jayne Cuddihy*

During the 2025–2026 reporting period, significant work has been undertaken to restore, organise and improve access to the ARS’s digital archives and online resources following the major website crash that occurred in early 2025.

### Website Recovery and Archive Restoration

The website crash at the beginning of 2025 resulted in the loss of a substantial archive of ARS documents, including conference proceedings, newsletters, council documentation and Publications Committee records. Since that time, considerable effort has gone into recovering and rebuilding these materials.

To date, more than 520 documents have been successfully retrieved and individually sorted into folders including:

- Biennial conference proceedings
- Publications Committee minutes
- Council documents
- Miscellaneous historical records

This cataloguing process has now been completed. A small number of undated documents remain to be correctly classified; however these are minimal.

Following discussions with our website contractor, it was determined that the current website infrastructure cannot adequately support the storage of these archival files directly on the website. As a result, all recovered materials are stored within Google Drive and, for the moment, linked through the ARS website.

### Conference Proceedings and Resources

A major focus of this year’s work has been restoring access to historical conference proceedings and abstract booklets, which continue to generate strong member interest and frequent enquiries.

All previous ARS conference proceedings are now linked through a dedicated page on the website:

#### ARS Biennial Conference Proceedings

The page is accessible through the website header under “Resources” and then “Biennial Conference”.

To simplify navigation and reduce duplication, the separate “Biennial Conference” dropdown menu in the header has temporarily been removed. Previously there were multiple pathways to the same information, creating unnecessary complexity and additional maintenance requirements.

Consolidating access through a single location will streamline ongoing management while broader relinking work continues.

At present:

- All abstract booklets have been linked and are publicly accessible through the website
- Papers from the most recent conferences have been retrieved and stored within Google Drive

The next stage of work will focus on linking Council and Publications Committee minutes.

### **Website Maintenance and Broken Links**

The rebuilding process has been highly labour-intensive. Numerous reports of broken links have been received throughout the year, requiring substantial time to both catalogue documents and individually reconnect files from the Google Drive archive to the website.

Given the scale of the archival material, the current priority has been ensuring that all information is available in at least one accurate and accessible location before undertaking further refinement and duplication removal.

### **Website Usage and Analytics**

Website analytics for reporting period from January to May 2026 indicate steady international engagement with ARS resources.

Key statistics include:

- 10,000 active users
- More than 61,000 recorded events
- Average engagement time of 17 seconds per session

The most frequently accessed content continues to be previous conference proceedings and associated publications, which may account for the short perusal time as they then 'click away' from the ARS site.

The highest number of active users originated from:

- Des Moines 3.4K
- Pheonix 2.4K
- Singapore 1.6K

These analytics demonstrate the continuing value of the Society's historical conference material and the importance of maintaining accessible digital archives.

The majority of site visits are direct visits, with only a minimal amount being redirected from other sources, including social media.

### **Photo Archive and Resource Sharing**

There have also been requests during the year regarding access to historical photographs and the establishment of a shared photo database.

A Google Drive folder containing photographs previously submitted by ARS photographers has continued to be maintained and shared with conference committees and individual members upon request.

## ARS Photo Archive Folder

Some metadata, including photographer information and location data, is embedded within image files, although this information is not consistent across all submissions.

## Looking Ahead

The primary focus moving forward will be:

- Continuing the relinking of archived materials
- Improving website navigation and reducing duplication
- Linking Council and Publications Committee records
- Expanding accessibility to conference papers and archival resources
- Reviewing options for improved long-term digital storage and management

Despite the challenges presented by the 2025 website failure, substantial progress has been made in restoring and safeguarding important ARS historical records and ensuring continued member access to Society resources.



*Sunset at Uluru, Pre-conference tour. Photo: Bob Shepherd*

## Social Media

*Prepared by Harriet Bawden*

From January to September the ARS Social Media accounts were in caretaker mode, with occasional posting as needed. A Social Media Coordinator commenced in October 2025 following a long vacancy. The role of the Social Media Coordinator is to plan, develop and publish original social media content (copywriting and graphics) and to maintain engagement across social media channels through interaction and “sharing” of relevant information. The coordinator is also required to prepare reports for the Publications Committee on the performance of the social media platforms.

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Upon the coordinator’s commencement, the Facebook and Instagram accounts were reactivated whilst administrative access to the LinkedIn and YouTube accounts was being investigated. A Social Media Plan was developed to align communications activity with the Society’s Marketing & Strategic Plans.

The key objectives of the Social Media Plan are to increase the visibility, engagement and reach of the Society, returning value to members and the wider community. The social media platforms are also intended to support promotion of the ARS biannual conference, the Rangeland Journal and relevant content from sector partners and organisations including the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP 2026).

Between October and December 2025, 15 pieces of content were posted across Meta platforms (Facebook and Instagram), resulting in an uplift in content views, interactions and clicks, as well as page visits and followers (as compared to the quarter prior). See Table 1. This also corresponded to an increase in social media performance in 2025 as compared to 2024. See Table 2.

To better understand and optimise post performance, different content types (e.g. graphics, image galleries, carousels etc) and styles were used throughout this period. The timing of posts was also varied to learn when audiences are most engaged. These learnings are being captured and implemented with each social media report.

**Table 1:** ARS Meta (Facebook and Instagram) results comparing quarters before and after the commencement of the Social Media Coordinator (July-September 2025 and October-December 2025)

	Facebook		Instagram	
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025
<b>Content views</b>	1.2k	6.2k (↑431.5%)	383	2.8k (↑629%)
<b>Reach</b>	n/a	n/a	67	869 (↑1.2k%)
<b>Viewers</b>	n/a	2.8k	n/a	n/a
<b>Interactions</b>	31	196 (↑532.3%)	1	50 (↑4.9k%)
<b>Clicks</b>	1	36 (↑3.5k%)	0	3
<b>Profile visits</b>	198	339 (↑71%)	11	41 (+30)
<b>Profile followers</b>	9	22 (↑144%)	3	17 (+14)

**Table 2:** ARS Meta (Facebook and Instagram) annual performance, comparing January to December 2024 and 2025

	Facebook		Instagram	
	2024	2025	2024	2025
<b>Content views</b>	n/a	10k	n/a	3.2k
<b>Reach</b>	n/a	n/a	310	1.1k (↑261%)
<b>Viewers</b>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Interactions</b>	32	257 (↑700%)	0	51
<b>Clicks</b>	4	45 (↑1k%)	0	3
<b>Profile visits</b>	543	1.1 (↑107.2%)	50	93 (↑86%)
<b>Profile follows</b>	37	56 (↑51.4%)	0	35

## Range Management Newsletter

*Prepared by Noelene Duckett*

In 2025, four issues of the *Range Management Newsletter* (RMN) were successfully published on the ARS website: three regular editions released in May, September and December, together with a Special Issue published in July. Although the first issue of the year was delayed following the major website upgrade undertaken in early 2025, the RMN quickly regained momentum and continued to provide members and readers with a diverse range of rangeland news and feature articles.

The regular editions featured a mix of volunteered feature articles and recurring items of interest to the rangeland community. Highlights included Gay Crowley’s overview of the Western Green Energy Hub, an insightful summary of changes observed across the 52-year-old grazing exclosures at Kidman Springs in the Northern Territory by Kate Holzapfel, Robyn Cowley, Jaidyn Eastaughffe and Gary Bastin, and Marg Friedel’s review of the recently published *A Bold Endeavour – A History of Our Work in the Western Australia Rangelands*.

Regular items continued to keep readers informed about major developments and events across the sector. Coverage included updates from the International Rangeland Congress held in Adelaide in June, activities associated with the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP), and ARS business such as Annual General Meeting information, Council activities and membership updates. The popular “Hot Off the Press” feature also appeared in every regular issue, showcasing a collection of recent rangeland news stories from across Australia and around the world.

One of the year’s standout initiatives was the ARS Council’s “Have Your Say” campaign, announced in the May issue in response to widespread interest in the proposed listing of buffel grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) as a Weed of National Significance (WoNS). The campaign invited perspectives on the future management of buffel grass across pastoral and non-pastoral landscapes and generated significant engagement from across the rangeland community. Ten opinion pieces were ultimately published in a dedicated Special Issue in July. Reader interest in the Special Issue was particularly encouraging, with several articles attracting more than 100 views despite Google Analytics only becoming available again from September 2025 onwards.

Another major achievement during 2025 was the substantial progress made towards restoring the full RMN archive following the 2024 website crash. Digital copies of many newsletters published between 1974 and 1998 — previously feared lost — were successfully recovered. Significant effort was also devoted to tracking down hard copies of the remaining missing newsletters, particularly from 1999 to 2015, to enable future scanning and inclusion in the online archive. This work represents an important step in preserving the Society’s history and making decades of rangeland knowledge accessible once again.

## Focus for 2026

- A key priority for 2026 will be the full restoration of the RMN archive on the ARS website. This will involve scanning and uploading the remaining missing newsletters to the Society’s Google Drive and reinstating links through the *Range Management Newsletter Archive* page so readers can once again access individual issues spanning more than 50 years of publication history.
- Securing longer feature articles remains an ongoing challenge, and renewed efforts will be made to encourage ARS members and other contributors from across the rangelands to share their experiences, research and perspectives through the newsletter.
- Building on the success of the “Have Your Say” buffel grass campaign, developments surrounding the WoNS nomination will continue to be followed closely throughout 2026. Other emerging rangeland issues and projects may also provide opportunities for future community discussion and special editions.
- With Google Analytics now reactivated on the ARS website, there is exciting potential to better understand reader interests and engagement patterns, helping shape future newsletter content around the topics that matter most to our audience.



*The long view. Photo: Harriet Bawden*

## **TRJ: The Rangeland Journal**

*Report prepared by Paul Novelly, Editor-in-Chief, The Rangelands Journal*

### **Volumes and Issues**

Submissions to the Rangeland Journal remain down on numbers compared with five years ago. Numbers for 2025 were 43 standard (non-Collection), and an additional 19 manuscripts from the IRC 2025 Collection and the Multifunctional Pastoralism Collection were also received. The 2025 data for ‘standard papers’ and the two Collections are provided below.

Activity for the Journal in late 2025 centred around the submission and assessment of manuscripts to the two current Collections (previously Special Issues). These are the IRC 2025 Collection, with thirteen manuscripts submitted (one subsequently withdrawn), and the Multifunctional Pastoralism Collection, with five manuscripts submitted.

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With both Collections having similar timelines, assessment of initial manuscripts and revised manuscripts will occur in the first half of 2026. It is planned that both these Collections will be published in the Rangeland Journal in calendar 2026, although individual papers will be published as they are accepted (as the Journal is 100% on-line, and hard copy issues are no longer produced).

Appreciation must go to the Guest Editors of both Collections for their commitment to their role of obtaining reviewers (always a challenging task) and providing their own assessment of the submitted manuscripts.

**Standard manuscripts submitted to the Rangeland Journal 2025**

<b>ORIGIN</b>	<b>SUBMITTED</b>
Australia	21
China	6
Middle East	7
Nth America	1
Sth America	2
Africa	4
Europe	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43</b>

<b>OUTCOME</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>
Not Yet Determined	8
Accepted	10
Rejected	20
Reject & resubmit	4
Withdrawn	1
Unsubmitted	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43</b>

**Manuscripts submitted to the Rangeland Journal for the IRC 2025 Collection**

<b>ORIGIN</b>	<b>SUBMITTED</b>
Australia	6
China	2
Middle East	1
Nth America	2
Sth America	0
Africa	3
Europe	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>

<b>OUTCOME</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>
Not Yet Determined	9
Accepted	4
Rejected	
Reject & resubmit	
Withdrawn	1
Unsubmitted	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>

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### Manuscripts submitted to the Rangeland Journal for the Multifunctional Pastoralism Collection

ORIGIN	SUBMITTED
Africa	1
Europe	2
Middle East	1
Asia	2

OUTCOME	NUMBER
Not Yet Determined	5
Accepted	
Rejected	
Reject & resubmit	
Withdrawn	
Unsubmitted	

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>
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### The Rangeland Journal metrics

The following information concerning reader use of the Rangeland Journal and its consequences has been provided by CSIRO Publishing.

Total Downloads	Acceptance Rate	Impact Factor	CiteScore
203,311	44	0.9	2.6

Average Days submission to 1st Decision	Average Days Acceptance to Online Pub	Impact Factor Quartile	CiteScore %
58	23	Q4	56

### Proposed Collections

A Collection on the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) was proposed by Dana Kelly at IRC 2025. The preliminary committee are Don Burnside, Bradd Witt, Sarah McDonald, Pieter Conradie and Dana Kelly, with input from Jonathon Davies, a rangelands consultant connected within Global IYRP. A primary Guest Editor has yet to be confirmed. No timeline is available as yet.

A proposed Collection on Renewables and Rangelands is mooted, and Gay Crowley has been approached to determine her interest in the Guest Editor's role and to begin identifying potential authors and papers. No timeline is available as yet.

## Commissioned papers

In association with Council member Matt Fletcher, permission was obtained from the ARS Council to consider two ‘commissioned papers’ over the 2026 calendar year. These papers, from topics suggested by ARS members, will be produced on a fee-for-service basis, and will be of the “Review” type of Journal paper. They are aimed at providing a comprehensive overview of a topic, a discussion of the complexities, and an understandable conclusion.

There are two papers being coordinated by the EIC.

### Savanna burning

Savanna burning remains contentious in the context of biodiversity conservation, including management requirements for conservation of fire-vulnerable taxa, both flora and fauna, and aspects of human health, and many argue that it does not provide a solution for the diversity of conservation, production, and cultural management issues that have emerged. What can be done to improve the biodiversity and human health outcomes of savanna burning? This paper should clearly address this debate and consider and assess the conflicting viewpoints with a focus on Australia, but also consider experience gained elsewhere.

### Tourism in Australia’s Rangelands – What can it achieve?

This paper will consider aspects such as:

- Role of tourism in education of visitors on rangeland resources and management.
- The role of rangeland tourism in spreading knowledge.
- Community science –role of the community in recording things e.g. birds, native fauna.
- Travellers’ perspectives of conservation through ecotourism.
- The role of national parks in rangeland tourism.
- Role of eco-tourism in rangelands – providing visual and written information and experiences.

## Associate Editors of the Rangeland Journal

There were 12 Associate Editors of The Rangeland Journal on 31 December 2025, as shown below.

Name	Country
Dr Steven Bray	Australia
Prof. Babo Fadlalla	Sudan
Prof. Fujiang Hou	China
Prof. Bernard Hubert	France
Dr Sarah McDonald	Australia
Prof. Graciela Metternicht	Australia

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Country</b>
Dr Tony Pressland	Australia
Dr Digby Race	Australia
Dr Rhiannon Smith	Australia
Dr Mark Stafford-Smith	Australia
Prof. Wei Sun	China
Dr Ian Watson	Australia

Dr Ann Waters-Bayer resigned from her role as an Associate Editor in 2025 owing to ill-health.

Two Associate Editors are no longer contactable (despite efforts by both the EiC and CSIRO Publishing).

### **Advisory Editors of the Rangeland Journal**

There were nine Advisory Editors of the Rangeland Journal at 31 December 2025, as shown below.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Country</b>
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	Germany
Dr Iain Wright	Ethiopia
Prof. Osvaldo Sala	USA

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### FY2025 Letter from Directors

The financial affairs of the Society remain on an adequate footing. The major event for the year was the XII International Rangeland Conference in Adelaide which the Society facilitated. Proceeds from this extremely successful conference have (to date) not been settled. As a result, the FY2025 financial report does not include a figure for profit-sharing from the event.

The FY2025 period thus netted out with a loss of \$51,527 compared to a loss of \$20,940 in FY2024. The major factor in this difference is the settlement of honoraria payments. Due to late scheduling, FY2024 payments were made in FY2025, resulting in approximately \$14,000 of expense that should have been carried in FY2024. Additionally, Council approved a number of increased and additional honoraria in Sept 2025. These additional payments further contributed to the apparent increase in expenses for FY2025.

The two key income sources for the ARS are Conferences and earnings from The Rangeland Journal (TRJ). At \$16,991, this year's TRJ earnings were significantly boosted by \$10,000 payment from the IRC to cover a Collection (Special Edition) for the XII Conference.

Membership numbers declined by 25 (to a total of 184). Income shown is considerably higher, however, this is due to a change in accounting for multi-year memberships.

The Society's total equity at 31 December 2025 stands at \$136,140. This is considered adequate to cover any foreseen liabilities arising in the coming year although Directors note that a conservative posture must be taken, especially with a view toward the risks typical of Conferences, and particularly in the current unsettled political climate.

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.

### Other matters

Nil.

### Subsequent events

No matter or circumstance has arisen since 31 December 2025 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.

### 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.

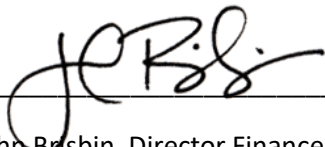
### Related Party Transactions

During the year, honoraria amounting to \$33,687 (excl GST) were paid.

These amounts are in accordance with the reviews of honoraria undertaken by the Council in Sept 2025.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the ARS Council:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Pieter Conradie, Director & Chair  
  
13/05/2026  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Brisbin, Director Finance & Audit  
  
13/05/2026  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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ABN 43 008 784 414

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**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

	Notes	2025	2024
		\$	\$
<b>COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>			
Income from Ordinary Activities	2	40,783	23,804
Journal Costs		(16,818)	(13,636)
Conference Costs		(19,522)	(19,711)
Professional Fees		(5,151)	(6,716)
Council Honoraria		(33,687)	-
ARS Website Expenses		(16,726)	(4,266)
Other Expenses		(406)	(415)
(Loss) from Ordinary Activities		(51,527)	(20,940)

*The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.*

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	2025	2024
		\$	\$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash Assets	3	29,009	91,378
Loan IRC 2025		-	20,000
Receivables – GST Receivable		2,436	2,556
Accounts Receivable		-	285
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>31,445</b>	<b>114,219</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Term Deposits		117,979	115,450
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>117,979</b>	<b>115,450</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>149,424</b>	<b>229,669</b>

*The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.*

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	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Payables	4	13,284	42,002
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>13,284</b>	<b>42,002</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			
		<b>136,140</b>	<b>187,667</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Accumulated Surplus	5	136,140	187,667
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>136,140</b>	<b>187,667</b>

*The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.*

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**CASH FLOW STATEMENT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Receipts from Members and Others		9,903	22,366
Interest Received		38	1,071
Payments to Suppliers		(92,310)	(46,781)
<b>Net Cash from operating activities</b>	6(b)	<b>(82,369)</b>	<b>(23,344)</b>
<b>CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING</b>			
Loan IRC 2025 – Funds Returned		20,000	-
<b>Net Cash from Investing Activities</b>		<b>20,000</b>	<b>-</b>
Net (Decrease) in Cash held		(62,369)	(23,344)
Cash at Beginning of the year		91,378	114,722
<b>Cash at End of the year</b>	6(a)	<b>29,009</b>	<b>91,378</b>

*The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.*

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

### 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

As the Society is a charitable institution in terms of sub-section 50-5 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*, as amended, it is exempt from paying tax.

#### 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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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 31 December 2025, the number of members was 184 (2024: 209).

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
<b>2. INCOME FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES</b>		
Operating activities		
Conferences	-	5,414
Membership fees	21,225	8,857
Bank interest	2,567	3,728
Journal income	16,991	5,805
	<u>40,783</u>	<u>23,804</u>
<b>3. CASH ASSETS</b>		
Commonwealth Saver	5,445	24,737
Commonwealth Operating	11,397	12,683
Commonwealth Cheque	655	1,049
Membership	2,152	25,599
National Conference	9,360	5,834
Crowd Funding Account	-	21,476
Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>29,009</u>	<u>91,378</u>

THE AUSTRALIAN RANGELAND SOCIETY

ABN 43 008 784 414

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	2025	2024
	\$	\$
<b>4. PAYABLES</b>		
Accounts Payable	-	1,870
Memberships in Advance	13,284	18,676
Funds Held in Trust	-	21,456
	<u>13,284</u>	<u>42,002</u>

**5. ACCUMULATED SURPLUS**

Accumulated Surplus at the Beginning of the Financial Year	187,667	208,607
Net (Loss) Attributable to Members of the Society	<u>(51,527)</u>	<u>(20,940)</u>
Accumulated Surplus at the End of the Financial Year	<u>136,140</u>	<u>187,667</u>

**6. 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:

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	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Cash at Bank and on Hand	29,009	91,378

**b) Reconciliation of cash flow from operations with loss from ordinary activities:**

(Loss)/Profit from Ordinary Activities	(51,527)	(20,940)
Adjustments and Non-Cash Items:		
- Term Deposit Interest Capitalised	(2,529)	(2,657)
Changes in Assets and Liabilities:		
- <u>(Increase)/Decrease in Accounts Receivables</u>	285	(285)
- (Increase)/Decrease in GST Receivables	120	(2,556)
- Increase/(Decrease) in Payables	(28,718)	3,094
Cash flows from Operating Activities	(82,369)	(23,344)

## DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

The Directors of the Society declare that:


*The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 25 to 32:*


- *Comply with Accounting Standards and the Corporations Act 2001; and*
- *Give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 31st December 2025 and performance for the year ended on that date of the Society.*

*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 Directors.

For and on behalf of the Directors:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Pieter Conradie, Director & Chair  
  
13/05/2026  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Brisbin, Director Finance & Audit  
  
13/05/2026  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

*(see Letter attached)*

## 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 2025, 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 2025 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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[reception@leegreen.com.au](mailto:reception@leegreen.com.au)  
[www.leegreen.com.au](http://www.leegreen.com.au)

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 2025 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 20<sup>th</sup> day of May 2026

190 FULLARTON ROAD  
DULWICH SA 5065

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