



Northern United Forestry Group

Minutes of Monthly meeting, Raywood GC, 8 pm Wednesday 25 January 2006

1 Welcome and apologies

The meeting commenced at 8:15 pm. Ian Rankin welcomed all members present to another big year of farm forestry in 2006.

Present: Ian Rankin, Mal Brown, Tim Johns, John Toll, Trevor Barker, Andy Hay, Darren Bain, Shaun Quayle, Darren Kerr, Phil Dyson, Ken Wellard, Louise Wellard, Rob Comer, James Williams, Lindsay Cail

Apologies: Howard Perry, Marg Dack, Stuart and Megan Ayson, Zoe Toll, Ben Boxshall.

2 Minutes of previous meeting held 23 November 2005

Motion: "That the minutes of the meeting held Raywood Golf Club, 23 November 2005, be accepted as a true and accurate record of what took place at the meeting, with one amendment that the quotable quote was wrongly attributed to Shaun Quayle." Moved Tim Johns. Seconded Shaun Quayle. Carried.

3 Business arising

- Website: NUFG has a new website www.nufg.org.au. The meeting thanked Phil Dyson for transferring all the data across from his website. Phil is managing the new site.
- Shaun Quayle reported that the Farm Forestry familiarisation tour (Part 2) would take place Friday 3 February and visit irrigated plantations near Deniliquin. Stuart Sizer, a contractor in the Deniliquin area, is available to show the group around some of the managed plantations in the area. Species include red gum and sugar gum. Participants will include Shaun Quayle, Ian Rankin, Mal Brown, Rob Comer, Marg Dack, Ken Wellard, Tim Johns and Trevor Barker. The group will travel in two cars.
- Ben Boxshall reported via phone that Sandalwood trials would take place on the properties of Tim Barden and Rob Comer.
- Ian Rankin outlined the possible contents of an NUFG Member's Kit. Discussion followed.
Motion: "That Ian Rankin and Shaun Quayle refine the content of a new member's kit and present to the February meeting." Moved James Williams. Seconded Lindsay Cail. Carried.

4 Correspondence in

- Keith Padbury, Silviculture contractor - contract rates and contact details for Pruning and Thinning.
- Letter from the Hon. Peter McGuaran, Minister for Agriculture, advising NUFG of successful funding application for Kamarooka Stage 3. (\$80,000 in 2005/06).
- NLP request to complete a Project Schedule from Paula Camenzuli, NCCMA
- Dr Daniel Murphy - request for Acacia seed for student research on salt tolerance. (John Toll to send some acacia seeds to Ian Rankin).
- Minutes of NUFG Executive meeting.

5 Correspondence out

- Minutes of November meeting
- NLP Kamarooka Stage 3 Project Schedule to Paula Camenzuli, NCCMA.
- Establish NUFG presence on National LandcareOnline website.

Motion: "That the correspondence be accepted." Moved Darren Bain. Seconded Andy Hay. Carried.

6 Reports

President's report

Ian Rankin reported on the successful announcement of NLP Community Support Funding for Stage 3 of the Kamarooka project, the successful Christmas Party (particularly the presentation of a plastic rain gauge to the Shadow Minister for Plastic Rain Gauges, Phil Dyson) and the recent inspection of John Toll's plantations by IR, MB and PD.

Treasurer's Report

Rob Comer submitted a detailed report for the last month of activity.

Motion: "That the Treasurer's report be accepted and that accounts received be approved for payment." Moved Rob Comer. Seconded John Toll. Carried.

Phil Dyson - Kamarooka Project Update and NUFG website

- Phil Dyson presented hydrographs and reported on the purchase of loggers and the bore drilling and EM38 work that DPI will be undertaking.
- Phil tabled a detailed report of his activities relating to the hydrogeology at Kamarooka and the tasks he has undertaken in upgrading and establishing the new NUFG website.

Tim Johns - Hand Held Pruning Equipment, Farm Forestry and Apiary

Tim presented a pair of long handled pruning shears available at \$15 per pair through Inglewood Hardware. John Toll agreed to trial the equipment.

Shaun Quayle - Farm Forestry Species

Shaun stressed the importance for the group to gather local data on growth rates of different species and the benefits of thinning a plantation.

Darren Bain - Biodiversity and Public Benefits of Plantation Forestry

Darren reported on the Plains Tender Project and its focus on biodiversity and native grasses.

Ken Wellard - Nursery matters

Ken reported on a nursery industry tour to New Zealand.

John Toll - Irrigated Plantations, Tree Guarding and Thinning

John raised the issue of insurance for plantations. To be explored further at a future meeting.

7 General Business

New NUFG Executive

A teleconference was held mid-January to form an NUFG Executive to make decisions on key aspects of NUFG operations and strategic planning. The teleconference passed the following resolutions:

Motion 1: That the NUFG Executive comprise President (IR), Vice-president (JT), Treasurer (RC) and Secretary (MB). Moved John Toll Seconded Ian Rankin. Carried

Motion 2: That the Kamarooka Project Management team comprise the Executive, plus Phil Dyson, Andy Hay, James Williams and the Project Officer. Moved Rob Comer Seconded John Toll. Carried

Motion 3: That the Executive adopt and endorse the tabled Excel spreadsheet as the budget for Year 1 of the Project, with the spreadsheet amended to include an allowance for Rob Comer's financial management and reporting on the project. Moved Ian Rankin Seconded John Toll. Carried

Motion 4: That Phil Dyson purchases 8 Solinst (Canada) groundwater monitoring data loggers and an additional barallogger saving approx \$2,000 and re-invests the saving into the groundwater program items 1.4 and 1.5 which cover his time in collecting the groundwater data, analysing the results, producing reports and graphs, presenting to the group and uploading to the website. That Phil Dyson purchases a digital rainfall recorder at a cost of approximately \$1000. Moved John Toll. Seconded Ian Rankin. Carried

Motion 5: That NUFG host a field day at Kamarooka on Friday 7 April. Moved Rob Comer Seconded John Toll. Carried

Motion 6: That NUFG register for GST and that Rob Comer explore what is required of a not-for-profit group.

Kamarooka Stage 3

During January a planning meeting was held at Andy and Carmel Hay's property. Many of the project logistics were determined at that meeting.

Mal Brown tabled a detailed work schedule approved by the Executive for Year 1 of the project:

- Phil Dyson is project leader for monitoring soil/water/vegetation interactions.
- Mal Brown is project leader for communication. Lindsay Cail will assist with the Field Day.
- John Toll is project leader for sheep monitoring during the trial.
- Ian Rankin is project leader for vegetation monitoring during the trial.

Update: The Kamarooka Project Stage 3 is well under way. Lambs were introduced to the project site on 8 February and will be allowed to graze among the farm forestry before being moved to the native grass area, and then into the saltbush. Thanks to Andy Hay for his cooperation with moving the stock.

Visit by the CRC for Plant-based Management of Dryland Salinity

The CRC for Plant-based Management of Dryland Salinity is to visit Kamarooka in the afternoon and attend the NUFG meeting on the night of 22 February 2006.

Elder Statesman

Motion: That NUFG congratulates the group's elder statesman, 'the Hon. Minister for Pruning and Thinning', who turns 60 in February 2006. Moved Ian Rankin. Seconded Phil Dyson. Carried unanimously and with applause. (It was asked whether such recognition would in fact make the Minister also responsible for veteran's affairs).

8 Meeting closed at 10:20pm.

9 Next Meeting

Raywood Golf Club, 8pm Wednesday, 22nd February 2006.