



Northern United Forestry Group

Monthly Meeting. Raywood Hotel, 7:30pm Wednesday 23 January 2008

1 Welcome and Apologies

President Ian Rankin declared the meeting open at 7:29pm.

Present: Rob Comer, Tim Johns, Phil Dyson, Ian Rankin, Mal Brown, Darren Kerr, Darren Bain, Andy Hay, James Williams, John Toll, Lynda Cartwright, Clare Millen, Lindsay Cail, Trevor Barker, Amanda McClaren.

Apologies: Stuart Ayson, Georgie Sims, , Adam Sims, Mal Johnson, Robyn McKay, Zoë Toll. Motion: "That the apologies be accepted." Moved JT. Seconded RC. Carried.

2 Minutes of previous meeting held 28 November 2007

Motion: "That the minutes of the meeting held at the Raywood Hotel 28 November 2007, be accepted as a true and accurate record of what took place at the meeting." Moved DK. Seconded MB. Carried.

3 Business arising from previous minutes

Issue/Action	By Whom	By When	Status
FF Toolbox V5 – Andy Warner CDs not in yet. Training to be delivered when CDs in. SQ to run through with V4 if V5 not ready	SQ	Decide at next meeting-	Active – SQ not present to report
MB has met with Geoff Park regarding running a MTG course. Melb Uni can help with funding plus Rowan Reid. Budget has been put together by Mal.	MB		Ongoing No change as yet.
Quotes from Heavenly Threads for hats/t-shirts received. Use good quality shirts/caps \$25 per shirt/\$10-15 caps.	IR/MB		
Christmas Party went well.			
Saltbush seeder from Dave Millsom has been received & is at Rankin's. Some discussion on hiring out and clean-up necessary. <u>Motion:</u> Use NUFG funds with necessary clean-up of the saltbush seeder. Moved MB. Seconded DK. Carried.			
James and Ranx to write up a proposal for the next meeting on use and hire arrangements for members and other groups for direct seeders.	JW/IR	Next meeting	Active

4 Correspondence In

- ♦ DPI/NCCMA – News & Views Summer 2007. Article on Kamo and Phil Dyson.
- ♦ Port Philip & Westernport CMC Farm Forestry Field day.
- ♦ Climate Change Conference
- ♦ Sustainable practices grants – 6pm Huntly CMA meeting.
- ♦ Farming in a Changing Landscape.
- ♦ Trevor Barker – Loddon Leaflet
- ♦ Smarttimbers – Realising the potential of farm forestry.

5 Correspondence Out

- ♦ MB – Quarterly report for Kamo to NCCMA.

Motion: "That the correspondence be accepted." Moved JW. Seconded AH. Carried.

6 Reports

- ♦ **President's report** – Ian Rankin talked about the Christmas function, which was well attended and enjoyed.

- ♦ **Treasurer's report** – Rob Comer reported on NUGF's income and expenditure as at 23 January 2008.

Motion: "That the Treasurer's report at 23 January 2008 be approved and that accounts received be approved for payment." Moved RC. Seconded JT. Carried.

- ♦ **Social Secretary's Report** – James formally thanked the Rankins' for the Christmas party and for all the work that they do in preparation and on the day.

Motion: "That NUGF buy a present for Leanne to the value of \$100 in appreciation of her efforts with the Christmas party." Moved JW. Seconded LC. Carried.

- ♦ **Kamarooka Project Report** – Mal presented data on the N-S and E-W tree transect sections through the forestry plot. Measurements for DBH & height. Mal presented Ranx's photo vegetation monitoring of trees, saltbush and grasses. This work has been turned into a report, a hard copy of which was handed around. Mac Hay, the owner of the Kamo site in the 1950's, re-visited the site for the first time since leaving and was interviewed comparing the site now with the 1950's.
- ♦ **Kamarooka ground water** - Phil Dyson gave a thorough explanation of the events since the rainfall event on 19/20 December 2007 where 132mm of rain fell in 24hrs. Ground water under the trees has risen to within 1.5m of the surface, previously 4.5m. The level is slowly receding after rising rapidly. Testing of the salinity of the groundwater has shown the "lens of fresh water" theory to be false. Sap flow monitoring has begun. Three thermocouples were employed to measure temperature and therefore water usage by the tree. Water being used as expected during the day & not at night. The minister was disappointed with discussion of cutting down trees to make measurements rather than the technology on show. Tuesday 25/3/08 international salinity conference visit to Kamo site 3:30 to 4:00pm. Website hits ~200/week.
- ♦ **Climate change Project** – Drilling started at Leichardt, one bore only. Hit water at 61m. Water from the rainfall event 19/20 December was collected in interception gauges. Under tree measurement showed that there was interception by the trees. Wed 13 Feb @ 5:30pm – East Loddon P-12 for further eFARMER training and EBMP. John Toll's evaporation pan, rainfall gauge and 3 bores are being monitored. A tidal effect noticeable in the ground water. Class A evaporation pans working well. Fact sheets for each property developed.

7 General Business

- ♦ Field day 23/4/08. Sub-committee formed; PD, DB, MB, IR, JW, AH. Speakers to be Charlie Hawkins, Phil Dyson, Will Dalton.
- ♦ PD- The website has maxed out @ 250Mb. Will be re-domiciled and increased to 1Gb at no charge shortly.
- ♦ TB – Drought relief, wheel cactus, fencing and tree planting to take place in NUGF area soon.
- ♦ TB – Greencorp team available to help from mid-march for worthwhile projects.
- ♦ Hare shoot @ Kamo to be arranged.
- ♦ IR – Forestry expo – early March 2008.
- ♦ MB/PD – presented on NUGF to Eco Health 07 conference.
- ♦ LyC - James has recently achieved pilot licence and found it useful to fly over their property to see what needs doing in various areas with the view from the plane. Will be possible for NUGF to arrange a light over their properties if interested. See Lynda.

8 **Meeting closed:** 9:26pm. **Next Meeting:** Raywood Hotel, 8pm Wednesday 27 February 2008.