



Northern United Forestry Group

Monthly Meeting. Dingee Hotel, 8:00pm Wednesday 25 January 2012

1 Welcome and Apologies

Vice-President Ken Wellard welcomed members and declared the meeting open at 8:00pm

Present: Ian Rankin, Tim Johns, Ken Wellard, Bill Gallagher, John Childs, James Williams, Robyn McKay, Andy Hay, Ben Boxshall, Phil Dyson, Mal Brown, Rob Comer, Leanne Rankin.

Apologies: Louise Wellard, Anne Murphy, Carmel Hay, Keith Murphy, John Toll.

Motion: "Accept the apologies." Moved PD. Seconded BG. Carried.

2 Minutes of previous meeting held 23 November 2011

Motion: "Minutes of the meeting held at Dingee Hotel 23/11/11, be accepted as a true, accurate record of the meeting." Moved BG. Seconded RMcK. Carried.

3 Business arising from previous minutes

Education centre at Kamo – tank to be procured, fencing, perimeter planting required, to be dealt with in GB.

Tasks for LC Grants acquittal – meeting for organising committee on 15th February JW, MB, PD, KW, RMcK at Raywood if meal available 7pm, Huntly if not. RMcK to organise venue.

April Curatolo – Not until middle of the year.

4 Correspondence In

- ♦ NCCMA – 25th Anniversary of LC Grants Agreement form 2011-12
- ♦ Australian Forest Grower Mag, Spring 2011, Vol 34, #3.
- ♦ Marguerite Jones-Roberts Dept of Planning and Community Development, Application received – climate communities 2010-2012.
- ♦ Parliament of Australia House of Reps – Seeing the forest through the trees, Inquiry into the future of the Australian Forest Industry, November 2011.

5 Correspondence Out

- ♦ None.

Motion: "That the correspondence be accepted." Moved RC. Seconded MB.

6 Reports

President's report – Ken passed on the groups' well wishes with regards Ian's recent accident, and for as speedy recovery as possible.

Treasurer's report – Rob reported on the income and expenditure to 25/1/12. **Motion:** "That the treasurer's report to 25/1/12 be accepted and outstanding invoices be approved for payment." Moved RC. Seconded AH. Carried. **Motion:** "That NUFG invest \$10K for 3 months at similar rate." Moved MB. Seconded AH. Carried.

Social Secretary's Report – Nice Christmas party had by the group. Small group, but a good opening for the Education centre and a good party. Thanks to Bill for cooking and all that took part in the evening. Lockington LC group having a photography workshop on 26 February, \$20 non-members free for members. \$15 to join the group.

Kamo report – Phil talked about Kamo site GW. Bore 8 under 2004 plantation is now at 6m, so all water from heavy rains essentially now removed. A similar story for areas under the other woody vegetation on site. La Trobe Uni visitors today were very interested in the site and trying to do similar work. Bore 8 will soon need to be replaced. Approximate cost will be around \$3K. Some discussion ensued about conversion of the water into biomass. Numbers are available, would be good to have to discuss. This is being done essentially by the dendrometer measurements being

collected. Some discussion ensued about funding the new bore. Motion: "That NUFG put in a variation to marquee hire to go towards funding bore construction, combined with funds from NUFG from sources including tours." Moved RMcK. Seconded PD. Carried.

7 General Business

1. NUFG proposal for investigation into plantation-grown firewood industry. Ben spoke to the perceived need for scoping the opportunities into getting NUFG involved. Some discussion ensued about just getting into producing the product and trying to sell. Also discussed whether the mode should be individual members or a centralised system. What do we really want from the system? Circulate an email finding out what firewood resources are available within the group, as data for the next meeting (Robyn).

2. Andy conveyed that Uncle Mac passed away on 22nd December. His ashes will be scattered on the Kamo site in February by his daughters. The meeting passed on their sympathies to the family.

3. Education centre – to be discussed at the next meeting.

4. JW – Mental health forum. Use NUFG model at Kamo and meetings etc for the basis. Similar to a men's shed type concept but devoted more to planting trees and rehabilitating a sensitive location. Sustainable Rural Communities, CoG Bendigo on board as is La Trobe Uni. James will raise with NCCMA. James, Bill and Phil involved thus far. Is NUFG comfortable with being involved in this project? A philanthropist will be visiting the Kamo site on February 14 to see first-hand the work being done. James to circulate the papers to further inform the group. General agreement from the meeting to further the proposal.

5. MB – CfoC bid to be put in for the group to get trees into the ground.

6. RMcK – Congratulations to Rob Comer & Nobuko for their up-coming nuptials.

7. National Soils Forum 8 and 9 March register on line at the NCCMA website.

Meeting closed: at 10:15pm.

Next Meeting: Raywood Hotel, Wednesday Feb 22nd, 2012 at 8:00pm.