



Northern United Forestry Group

Monthly Meeting. Raywood Golf Club, 8pm Wednesday 28 February 2007

1 Welcome and Apologies

President Ian Rankin declared the meeting open at 8:12pm.

Present: Rob Comer, Mal Brown, Darren Kerr, Tim Johns, Andy Hay, Phil Dyson, Ian Rankin, James Williams, Lindsay Cail, John Toll, Trevor Barker, Stuart Ayson, Saide Gray.

Apologies: Shaun Quayle, Louise Wellard, Ken Wellard, Darren Bain, Greg Rankin, Prue Borschmann, Megan Ayson.

Motion: "That the apologies be accepted." Moved Andy Hay. Seconded Stuart Ayson. Carried.

2 Minutes of previous meeting held 24 January 2007

Motion: "That the minutes of the meeting held at the Raywood Golf Club 24 January 2007, be accepted as a true and accurate record of what took place at the meeting." Moved Darren Kerr. Seconded John Toll. Carried.

3 Business arising from previous minutes

- ♦ Rhonda Day – awaiting monies from completed forms.
- ♦ Farm forestry toolbox – NUFG to be trained by Shaun Quayle.
- ♦ Purchase of the overhead projector is not possible under funding rules.

4 Correspondence In

- ♦ Shaun Quayle - Carbon workshop.
- ♦ Rhonda Day - Campaspe Landcare diary, native vegetation identification sheets, non-mains water rebate info, letter and other info.
- ♦ Trevor Barker – R9 Envirofund.
- ♦ NCCMA – 2nd Generation Landcare (bus tour) grant approved.
- ♦ Ben Kroker – Volunteer community forum.
- ♦ Andrew Lang – Smarttimbers, small diameter woodlot timber, landowner take-up of farm forestry, JVAP mechanical thinning in small plantations.

5 Correspondence Out

- ♦ NCCMA – acceptance of funding.

Motion: "That the correspondence be accepted." Moved James Williams. Seconded Lindsay Cail. Carried.

6 Reports

- ♦ President's report – Ian Rankin gave a reprise of the Greens party visit to the Kamarooka site. All who visited were suitably impressed with the site including Greg Barber. "Gorgeous" Andy was present. Mal gave an outline of the project in flyer form to the visitors. Pembroke College (Yarra Valley) exchange school with East Loddon will visit the Kamarooka site 19/20 April 2007. An e-mail was received from Prue Borchmann announcing her engagement (congratulations from all). Junior Landcare – Penny Wall, Ranx and Trevor Barker looked at possible land for the project at East Loddon.

- ♦ Treasurer's report – Rob Comer reported on NUGF's income and expenditure as at 28 February 2007.

Motion: "That the Treasurer's report at 28 February 2007 be approved and that accounts received be approved for payment." Moved Rob Comer. Seconded Phil Dyson. Carried.

- ♦ Saide Gray led a discussion to help with her research into the social effects of dryland salinity.

- ♦ Kamarooka project – Mal Brown gave an update on the Kamarooka grazing trial. Early analysis of results shows that there was an overall improvement of the lambs on the revegetation site, which fed largely on saltbush and native grasses. The trial is looking at comparisons in blood analytes between a group on the trial site and a control group.

- ♦ Kamarooka ground water - Phil Dyson presented data showing that bores 7, 8 and 10 (which are under the plantation area) are all continuing to lower water tables underneath them more than other areas being monitored. This is leading to a connection that the trees are using water from the watertable, which is 2/3 the salinity of sea water and showing no ill-effects.

7 General Business

- ♦ James Williams to organise farm forestry tour.

- ♦ Many items were carried over because of a lack of time in the meeting.

- ♦ A short discussion was held outlining the successful and unsuccessful candidates for the Climate change project and more of what the project would entail. This included the formal selection of a project manager.

Motion: That Tim Johns be accepted as project manager for the Climate change project. Moved Linddsay Cail. Seconded Stuart Ayson. Carried.

8 Meeting closed: 10:35pm. **Next Meeting:** Raywood Golf Club, 8pm Wednesday 28 March 2007.