



# Northern United Forestry Group

## Monthly Meeting. Raywood Hotel, 8:00pm Wednesday 27 February 2008

### 1 Welcome and Apologies

President Ian Rankin declared the meeting open at 8:07pm.

**Present:** Rob Comer, Tim Johns, Phil Dyson, Ian Rankin, Mal Brown, Darren Kerr, Darren Bain, John Toll, Stuart Ayson, Shaun Quayle, Paul Turnbull, Faye Forbes, Ken Wellard.

**Apologies:** Lindsay Cail, James Williams, John Forbes. Motion: "That the apologies be accepted." Moved DB. Seconded SA. Carried.

### 2 Minutes of previous meeting held 23 January 2008

Motion: "That the minutes of the meeting held at the Raywood Hotel 23 January 2008, be accepted as a true and accurate record of what took place at the meeting." Moved JT. Seconded MB. Carried.

### 3 Business arising from previous minutes

Issue/Action	By Whom	By When	Status
FF Toolbox V5 – New person has taken over from Andy. Shaun to organise training day.	SQ	May 08	Active
MB has met with Geoff Park re- running a MTG course. Melb Uni /Rowan Reid/Budget put together by Mal.	MB		Ongoing
Polo shirts and caps arranged. \$20 shirts/\$10 caps. Orders taken	IR/MB		Complete
Saltbush seeder – Proposal has been put together by James & presented at meeting. Seeder has had an alteration done by Ranx. <u>Motion:</u> Propose that fees for seeders be \$50/day for non-members, \$20/day for members until returned. Seeder condition to be as it was when hired. Moved MB. Seconded SQ. Carried.			

### 4 Correspondence In

- ♦ Rhonda Day – Dec/Jan Landcare diary
- ♦ Aust Forest Timbers – Feb 2008 Issue 1, Vol 17.

### 5 Correspondence Out

- ♦ PD – NUFG proposal for NLP project 2008/09 for 3 years.
- ♦ Motion: "That the correspondence be accepted." Moved MB. Seconded JT. Carried.

### 6 Reports

- ♦ **President's report** – Ian Rankin reported that there was a time & motion analysis for thinning arranged via Andrew Lang showing that it was unviable commercially. This is differing from the one done via DPI (SQ) showing it was viable.
- ♦ **Treasurer's report** – Rob Comer reported on NUFG's income and expenditure as at 27 February 2008.  
Motion: "That the Treasurer's report at 27 February 2008 be approved and that accounts received be approved for payment." Moved RC. Seconded KW. Carried.
- ♦ **Social Secretary's Report** – Not present.
- ♦ **Kamarooka Project Report** – Mal led a discussion about the tasks surrounding the field day on 23 April 2008. Various tasks have been assigned by the sub-committee. The guest speakers have been organised. Excellent flyer and poster developed by MB with artist input. MB has done newspaper ads. Mal to do radio interview. Meat pack to be arranged as part of gate prize. Motion: Endorse the flyer and poster. Moved MB. Seconded SA. Carried.

- ♦ **Kamarooka ground water** - Phil stated, that following the rainfall event of 20/21 December 2007, all groundwater levels were back to within 0.5 to 1m of the surface. The levels under the forestry and biodiversity plantations are now falling rapidly back to pre-rainfall event levels. Falls in other areas are due to the blotting effect and evaporation at the surface. Remnant vegetation is not falling at the same rate. New vegetation on trees has been noted since the rainfall event. Sap flow monitoring – heat velocity running at ~35cm/h. 3 meters in use, 2 on sugar gum and 1 on occidentalis.
- ♦ **Climate change Project** –Evaporation basins at Fort Kamarooka and Comer, Brown and Toll properties working well. Evap is ~10mm/day. Figures in line with BOM data for his part of the world. Adjusting for pan factor evap is ~7mm/day. Training day held at E/Loddon for eFARMER/EBMP went well. Drilling complete at Leichardt. Lindsay’s bore constructed at 10-12m from the surface. Rob’s to be drilled shortly. A further training day for eFARMER/EBMP to be held at E/Loddon P-12 March 12 beginning at 5pm.

## 7 General Business

Pembroke College- E/Loddon visit to Kamo – KW to “Take one for the team.”. Thanks Ken!
NLP sustainable practices grants. PD went through the recently submitted proposal in detail to the group. The project will essentially be combining key aspects of both the Kamarooka and Climate change projects as well as adding a social perspective. <u>Motion:</u> Acknowledgement of the work done by Phil to write and submit the application. Moved MB. Seconded JT. Carried. Thanks Phil!
It was reported to the meeting that there would be no extension support for private forestry by DPI as of 1/7/08. Members were concerned that the fledgling private forestry industry that was essentially started with much help from DPI may struggle to move forward without appropriate extension support. <u>Motion:</u> Letter to be written to the relevant Victorian Government Minister (Joe Helper) expressing the group’s dismay at the loss of extension support services. Moved SA. Seconded KW. Carried.
PD – 28/3 Nico Marcar going to Kamo with 3 colleauges from Thailand.
Echuca birdwatchers to do short survey at the Kamo site.

**8 Meeting closed:** 9:50pm. **Next Meeting:** Raywood Hotel, 8pm Wednesday 26 March 2008.