



# Northern United Forestry Group

## Monthly Meeting. Raywood Golf Club, 8pm Wednesday 25 April 2007

### 1 Welcome and Apologies

President Ian Rankin declared the meeting open at 8:15pm.

**Present:** Rob Comer, Darren Kerr, Tim Johns, Andy Hay, Phil Dyson, Ian Rankin, James Williams, Ken Wellard, Louise Wellard, Lynda Cartwright, Shaun Quayle, Paul Turnbull, Mal Brown, Lindsay Cail.

**Apologies:** Prue Borschmann, John Toll, Tim Barden, Andrew Wall, Penny Wall, Trevor Barker.

**Motion:** "That the apologies be accepted." Moved James Williams. Seconded Shaun Quayle. Carried.

### 2 Minutes of previous meeting held 28 March 2007

**Motion:** "That the minutes of the meeting held at the Raywood Hotel 28 March 2007, be accepted as a true and accurate record of what took place at the meeting." Moved Rob comer. Seconded Phil Dyson. Carried.

### 3 Business arising from previous minutes

- ♦ Rhonda Day – monies from application completion have arrived.

### 4 Correspondence In

- ♦ BIFFN – flyers to join.
- ♦ Lynda Cartwright – letter regarding direction of NUFG.
- ♦ Dept of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – remittance advice.
- ♦ Ballarat tree growers – Melbourne Uni lectures on tree growing.
- ♦ Rhonda Day - Shire of Campaspe volunteer information.
- ♦ Jan Butcher – Loddon Shire volunteer survey.
- ♦ Rhonda Day – Campaspe shire "Can saltbush become lambs food of choice?"

### 5 Correspondence Out

- ♦ None.

**Motion:** "That the correspondence be accepted." Moved Andy Hay. Seconded Louise Wellard. Carried.

### 6 Reports

- ♦ President's report – Ian Rankin reported on Pembroke college and East Loddon visit to Kamarooka. There were 80 year 9 kids. Ian thanked Ken Wellard and Phil Dyson for their help on the day. East Loddon kids gave good feedback on the day. Feedback from Pembroke to be sought. During the report Mal showed footage of Phil Dyson circa 1990 at Axe creek. Ian reported that Ian Twomey from CSIRO will be visiting the Kamarooka site. Ian also recently travelled to Millicent in SA where he looked at a tree harvesting machine (PATU 40). It is a hydraulic machine hooked up to a standard tractor. Some mods required to the tractor to make the machine fully functional.

- ♦ Treasurer's report – Rob Comer reported on NUFG's income and expenditure as at 25 April 2007.

**Motion:** "That the Treasurer's report at 25 April 2007 be approved and that accounts received be approved for payment." Moved Rob Comer. Seconded Ken Wellard. Carried.

- ♦ Kamarooka ground water - Phil Dyson presented data from the groundwater monitoring bores. Ground water under the treed areas is still falling at a rapid rate. The other areas are starting to slow in terms of rate of fall. Water table of new plantings may make the level of the remnant vegetation over the next couple of months given the current rate of decline.
- ♦ Kamarooka project report. Mal Brown screened "Kamarooka" the movie. An excellent product has been produced. The meeting responded very favourably to the excellent content and quality of the production. Mal praised the work of Philip Ashton (Imagelink Ltd) for his video, camera work and assistance with the video.
- ♦ Climate change Project – Phil Dyson reported that Rainfall loggers are in place in 4 out of 5 intended locations. Ground-water drilling is to happen in about 3 weeks, permits and titles being arranged. Evaporation pans are being constructed at a cost of \$200 each. Drilling will be more expensive than budgeted for. Project is on target. E-FARMER training times will be arranged with Geoff Park and East Loddon school as the broadband resource. Ian Rankin has spoken to Geoff Park & will visit the school to see the set-up of E-FARMER. First training time – Thursday 7 June from 6 to 8pm.
- ♦ Social Secretary report – James Williams reminded the meeting that the bus tour of member plantations was to occur on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April. All those member plantations being visited were asked to prepare an aerial photo if possible with layout of plantations on.

## **7 General Business**

- ♦ Lynda Cartwright's letter of concern regarding the direction of NUFG was discussed at length and forthrightly by the meeting. There was some concern regarding the level of "Landcare" type activity as opposed to "forestry". It was agreed that members would report on the level of proposed future plantations in addition to existing plantations so that the real position of the group in terms of overall "trees in the ground" without further member growth could be determined.

## **8 Meeting closed: 10:40pm. Next Meeting: Raywood Golf Club, 8pm Wednesday 23 May 2007.**