



Northern United Forestry Group

Monthly Meeting. Raywood Golf Club, 8pm Wednesday 23 May 2007

1 Welcome and Apologies

President Ian Rankin declared the meeting open at 8:25pm.

Present: Rob Comer, Darren Kerr, Tim Johns, Andy Hay, Phil Dyson, Ian Rankin, James Williams, Ken Wellard, Louise Wellard, Mal Brown, Amanda McLaren, Stuart Ayson, Aldo Pembroke.

Apologies: John Toll, Trevor Barker, Marg Dack, Darren Bain, Shaun Quayle, Lynda Cartwright, Megan Ayson, Aaron Gay, Lindsay Cail.

Motion: "That the apologies be accepted." Moved Andy Hay. Seconded Rob Comer. Carried.

2 Minutes of previous meeting held 25 April 2007

Motion: "That the minutes of the meeting held at the Raywood Hotel 25 April 2007, be accepted as a true and accurate record of what took place at the meeting." Moved Phil Dyson. Seconded Ken Wellard. Carried.

3 Business arising from previous minutes

- ♦ Amendments to previous minutes.

4 Correspondence In

- ♦ Trevor Barker – Grassroots water solutions funding \$200m.
- ♦ Rhonda Day – Bush stone curlew id sheet. Drought information pocket guide. Flier from Mari Q – carbon meeting at Girgarre. FRRR/ McEwen foundation grants. Frog identification night. Land and biodiversity, climate change info.
- ♦ Bendigo Miner – article on group.
- ♦ Australian Forest Grower.
- ♦ Joint Venture Agroforestry Project (JVAP) – Research projects 2006/07
- ♦ GM Water permit approvals.
- ♦ NLP 2007/2008 funding.
- ♦ VFF AGM notification.

5 Correspondence Out

- ♦ NLP report – Amanda McLaren and Federal Govt Dept.
- ♦ Final report of grazing trial – Maxwell Campbell (animal ethics)
- ♦ Drilling permit applications – Goulburn-Murray Water

Motion: "That the correspondence be accepted." Moved Louise Wellard. Seconded Darren Kerr. Carried.

6 Reports

- ♦ President's report – Ian Rankin travelled with Shaun Quayle and Paul Turnbull to a meeting at Creswick. Smarttimbers (Andrew Lang) forming an overall group from the existing farm forestry network groups. The meeting was about the formation of the group. More information to follow. A small tree harvesting equipment meeting to be held with forestry people from Ballarat and Shaun Quayle.

- ♦ Treasurer's report – Rob Comer reported on NUFG's income and expenditure as at 23 May 2007.

Motion: "That the Treasurer's report at 23 May 2007 be approved and that accounts received be approved for payment." Moved Rob Comer. Seconded Ken Wellard. Carried.

- ♦ Social Secretary Report – James Williams gave a report on the bus tour of Neangar Nursery and member plantations, starting at Epsom and moving through Eaglehawk, Leichardt, Brenanah, Kingower, Raywood and Kamarooka. Discussion ensued on how the group members could value-add their plantations. Pruning and thinning needs to be done. Form pruning at Kamarooka is a priority.
- ♦ Kamarooka ground water - Phil Dyson presented data from the groundwater monitoring bores. After the recent rainfall groundwater - under the remnant vegetation continues to fall, under the NUFG forestry plantation has stopped falling, under the biodiversity plot has started to rise and under the saline land and saltbush rose 0.5m. Photos of the site before and after planting were viewed. The photos were taken from a cherry picker and showed the same views at different timeframes. The transformation to the site has been amazing.
- ♦ Kamarooka project report. Mal Brown stated that the Kamarooka project report 2005/06 has been completed. There are 18 months of the project to go (need to condense 2 years work into 18 months to ensure timely completion). Work from an economist is required to calculate the economics of the project. Form pruning is required on the project site this winter. Field day to be timed for early/mid September on a weekday. Late June/early July targeted for the release of the Kamo video. Ian Linley has put the NUFG up as an industry case study for the Farm Forestry industry. This will involve national media exposure etc.
- ♦ Climate change Project – the East Loddon school and Geoff Park are booked for introduction and initial training for EFARMER. The evaporation pans have been ordered. All Rainfall gauges are installed except for John Toll's. Some damage to the Cail property's solar panels was sustained due to sheep interference.
- ♦ Junior Landcare at East Loddon. The site is organised. Trevor Barker is chair of the steering committee. There are 4 teachers, Ranx, Penny Wall, the Lion's club have 1 member and 2 students on the committee. There will be a launch in mid July with dignitaries and students. Publicity is being arranged through the education dept and Landcare. Students are working on a sign and name for the site.
- ♦ Amanda McLaren gave a brief discussion of her role and various services and support available for NUFG.

7 **General Business**

- ♦ Kamarooka form pruning to be put on as business for the next meeting.
- ♦ A bottle of wine was given to presenters of the Farm forestry tour. Some \$125 is left over from the tour funding. This will be used for another tour of member plantations heading towards Gunbower.

8 Meeting closed: 10:55pm. **Next Meeting:** Raywood Golf Club, 8pm Wednesday 27 June 2007.