



Northern United Forestry Group

Monthly Meeting. Raywood Golf Club, 7:30pm Wednesday 28 May 2008

1 Welcome and Apologies

President Ian Rankin declared the meeting open at 7:30pm.

Present: Rob Comer, Tim Johns, Phil Dyson, Ian Rankin, Mal Brown, Darren Kerr, Shaun Quayle, Ken Wellard, Lindsay Cail, Aldo Penbrook, Andy Hay, John Toll, Anne Murphy, Stuart Ayson, Meg Ayson, Mal Johnson, Tim Demeo, Mark Phelan, Don Brown, Amanda McClaren, Trevor Barker, Penny Wall.

Apologies: Louise Wellard, Darren Bain, Alec Downey, David Millsom, Paul Turnbull, Andrew Wall, Tim Barden, James Williams. Motion: "That the apologies be accepted." Moved AP. Seconded LC. Carried.

2 Minutes of previous meeting held 23 April 2008

Motion: "That the minutes of the meeting held at the Hay farm 23 April 2008, be accepted as a true and accurate record of what took place at the meeting." Moved KW. Seconded SA. Carried.

3 Business arising from previous minutes

Issue/Action	By Whom	By When	Status
FF Toolbox V5 – Need to organise some time pre/post meeting to present V4.	SQ/TJ	July 08	Active
MTG – refer to "General Business"			

4 Correspondence In

- ♦ VFF – group membership renewal and details.
- ♦ VFF – AGM 2008 registration form.
- ♦ Sharon Occhipinti – Landcare carbonSMART pre-training info. 3rd June 2008, 9:30am – 3:45pm.
- ♦ Howard Perry – Shortage of foresters available. Discussion via e-mail?
- ♦ Marion Da Costa – BIFFN to visit Kamo site during June/July.
- ♦ Shepparton News – Article on NUFG filed day "Wasteland Transformed" Monday 28/4/08.
- ♦ Vic Govt – Future Farming – Production, competition and sustainable farming.
- ♦ AFG Vol 31, #1 – Aust Forest Grower Mag (p36 Ben Boxshall).
- ♦ Australian Forest And Timber Mag – Iss 3 Vol 17.
- ♦ Coral Love – Thank-you for Kamo site visit.
- ♦ National Landcare Facilitator – Draft learnings from NUFG.
- ♦ Vic AFG – Tree farmer of the year award entries close 9/6/08.
- ♦ Ian Linley – Gene technology workshop in Bendigo @ BRIT 19/20 June '08.
- ♦ Weekly Times – Kamo spread.

5 Correspondence Out

- ♦ None.

Motion: "That the correspondence be accepted." Moved MA. Seconded JT. Carried.

6 Reports

♦ **President's report** – Ian Rankin reported on the direct seeding field day held 13/5/08 by DB/JW/Fred Shea. Around 20 people attended. Day covered ground preparation, problems, insect attack, seed cleaning. Loddon Landcare dinner was held, Lentilas Anything founder Shanaka Fernando was the speaker and delivered an excellent speech to the crowd. Saltbush seeder hired by Salisbury West Landcare members, who were pleased with the results. Up-coming tours of Kamo include BIFFN, Kangaroo Flat & Gilmore Colleges. Ben Boxshall back next Friday – will use saltbush seeder for sandalwood.

♦ **Treasurer's report** – Rob Comer reported on NUFG's income and expenditure as at 28 May 2008.

Motion: "That the Treasurer's report at 28 May 2008 be approved and that accounts received be approved for payment." Moved RC. Seconded MJ. Carried.

♦ **Social Secretary's Report** – Not present.

♦ **Kamarooka Project Report** – Mal reported on recent activities with the project. Native grass seed was supplied by Tim Barden for bare patch of land North of saltbush but seeding using the air-seeder didn't work. Need to re-do this work. The Kamo project ends 30 June 2008. Need to now see whether funding application to continue and expand the project is successful.

♦ **Kamarooka ground water** – Phil reported that the ground water is back to its lowest recorded levels again. All ground water more than 2m below surface ~ 5 months after large rainfall event. Sap flow data being collected is showing good correlations between sap flow and available light. Plantation ground water usage is approximately 1ML/ha/yr based on early measurements.

♦ **Climate change Project** – The Climate change project is also at an end as of June 30. Again, funding has been applied for to roll this project in with the Kamarooka project. During the month soil pits were dug at all the participating properties. This showed that pretty much across the board, the pH of the subsoils are 9+ in this area. The final report for the project is on the process of being written. There have been some excellent gains in understanding for the group from this project.

7 General Business

1. MTG steering committee – IR, RC, AMcC, PD, TB, JW selected.
2. MTG facilitator selection – IR, AMcC, PD, TB, TJ selected.
3. NUFG 10 year celebration – IR, AH, JW, PW, RC, LCart selected for sub-comm.
4. Card for Prue Day (nee Borschmann) – congratulations on marriage.
5. Mark Phelan – Pembroke college/ East Loddon P-12 had a fantastic day at Kamo which was greatly appreciated by staff & students @ both schools.
6. Thanks to Loddon Shire (Trevor Barker) for supply of food & soft drinks for the BBQ tonight.

8 **Meeting closed:** 9:30pm. **Next Meeting:** Raywood Hotel 25 June 2008, starting at 8pm.