



Northern United Forestry Group

Monthly Meeting. Raywood Hotel, 8pm Wednesday 27 June 2007

1 Welcome and Apologies

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

Present: Rob Comer, Darren Kerr, Tim Johns, Andy Hay, Phil Dyson, Ian Rankin, James Williams, Mal Brown.

Apologies: John Toll, Trevor Barker, Ken Wellard, Louise Wellard, Stuart Ayson, Shaun Quayle, Aldo Penbrook, Lindsay Cail, Darren Bain.

Motion: "That the apologies be accepted." Moved Darren Kerr. Seconded James Williams. Carried.

2 Minutes of previous meeting held 23 May 2007

Motion: "That the minutes of the meeting held at the Raywood Golf Club 23 May 2007, be accepted as a true and accurate record of what took place at the meeting."

Moved Andy Hay. Seconded Phil Dyson. Carried.

3 Business arising from previous minutes

- ♦ Amendments to previous minutes.
- ♦ Starting time of meeting – a discussion was held regarding the recent lack of starting of meetings at the advertised time. It was agreed there needs to be improved adherence to the timeliness of meetings.

4 Correspondence In

- ♦ James Williams – Report on bus tour.
- ♦ Jessie Blackadder – "Going over to the dark side" an interview with NUFG members published via Federal Government (DAFF).
- ♦ Press release VFFG's – June 14 Stock & Land
- ♦ Ballarat treegrowers/Komatsu – e-mail on tree harvesting equipment.

5 Correspondence Out

- ♦ Nil

Motion: "That the correspondence be accepted." Moved Mal Brown. Seconded Darren Kerr. Carried.

6 Reports

- ♦ President's report – Ian Rankin relayed information about the recent E-FARMER training held at East Loddon school on June 7 for Climate Change project selected members. Dinner provided by the Dingee Hall Committee ladies was well received. More training is required and is planned. It was a good introduction to E-FARMER. A discussion ensued as to how members were going with the program. It was found that a major impediment is access to high speed broadband and infrastructure issues. A letter will be sent to the relevant authorities expressing concerns over these issues. On June 14 the "Code of Practice for timber production" was launched. There are various issues arising from the Code for members. There was a discussion about the existence of a planning development notice for the project site – Mal to follow up. Ian is on a new committee "Thinning Utilisation Project" and a sub-committee specifically dealing with small harvesting equipment.

- ♦ Treasurer's report – Rob Comer reported on NUGF's income and expenditure as at 27 June 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 James Williams. Carried.

- ♦ Social Secretary Report – James Williams presented a proposal for a second tour of NUGF member plantations. James had prepared an itinerary and there was general agreement on the content. The proposed date is Wednesday 1st August 2007. James proposed that there be a compere for the day to allow improved discussion about each site to enhance learning, Mal Brown will do this. James will provide a list from previous information collected for Tim to prepare a proforma for presenters to fill in regarding their plantations prior to the day. It was requested that members who took photos of the FF tour 1 pass those to Phil Dyson for addition to the website.

- ♦ Kamarooka project report. Mal Brown thanked Andy, James and Ranx for help with getting "aerial" photos of the project site. Criteria has been developed for final completion of the project. Vic Landcare awards nomination form has been prepared. "The Kamarooka Report" DVD has been produced.

- ♦ Kamarooka ground water - Phil Dyson presented data from the groundwater monitoring bores. Results seem to confirm that the trees are using water of high salinity. Phil has also prepared an abstract for the International Salinity Conference to be held in Adelaide in 2008. Following about 155mm of rain over the last 3 ½ months the groundwater under various areas is as follows:

<i>Area of interest</i>	<i>Change or point of interest</i>
Under FF plantation (bore 8)	Remained constant
Salt effected area	Risen 1m – again within 1.5m of surface
Under biodiv. planting (bore 10)	Risen 20cm
Bore 9 (dry for 6 months)	Now has 30cm of water in bottom

- ♦ Climate change Project – all rainfall stations are now installed. The station at Lindsay Cail's has sustained damage from sheep and should be repaired in the next 2/3 days. There have been issues with getting the drilling of bores done. Blacklaws had an event which meant they were out of action for some weeks meaning we lost our place in the queue. Watson's are now being contracted and should start in 2 to 3 weeks. Watson's drilling set up though a more expensive approach will be safer in sandy soils in terms of collapse of the hole. Bendigo Sheetmetal are building a prototype evaporation pan, this should be ready in about 3 weeks. Mal (and Phil) have been working on developing Climate Change project pages for the website.

7 General Business

- ♦ Pruning day to be held at the Kamo site Sunday 1/7/07 9am to 1pm BBQ to follow.
- ♦ A pruning day open to the public to be held at Ranx's place with DPI 14/8/07.
- ♦ Saltbush on the Kamo site is ready for grazing again.
- ♦ Send flyer to Marion da Costa (BIFFN secretary) re: pruning day at Kamo.
- ♦ Bendigo Field Naturalists visited Kamo site with Phil Dyson and were impressed by the biodiversity at the site including trapdoor spiders.

8 **Meeting closed:** 9:40pm. **Next Meeting:** Raywood Golf Club, 8pm Wednesday 25 July 2007.

Action items list arising from NUFG meetings

Issue/Action	By Whom	By When
Improved adherence to timeliness of meetings	NUFG members	Ongoing
Send letter regarding issues with accessing EFARMER including infrastructure to relevant authorities	Tim Johns	25/07//07
Plantation development notice for Kamo site?	Mal Brown	25/07/07
Provide a list of items to develop a pro-forma for FF Tour 2	James Williams	before 25/07/07
Develop pro-forma as above	Tim Johns	25/07/07
Provide photos to Phil Dyson from FF tour 1	Members with photos from tour	ASAP
Send flier to BIFFN for pruning day	Tim Johns	28/06/07