



Northern United Forestry Group

Monthly Meeting. Raywood Golf Club, 8:00pm Wednesday 27 August 2008

1 Welcome and Apologies

President Ian Rankin declared the meeting open at 8:00pm.

Present: Darren Kerr, Tim Johns, Phil Dyson, Ian Rankin, Ken Wellard, Lindsay Cail, Darren Bain, Ben Boxshall, Alasdair Grigg, Barbara Lindemann, Greg Akers, James Williams, Rob Comer

Apologies: Trevor Barker, Malory Weston, Andrew Wall, Penny Wall, Mal Brown, John Toll, Louise Wellard, Robyn McKay, Tim Barden, David Millsom, Keith Murphy, Anne Murphy, Andy Hay.

Motion: "The apologies be accepted." Moved LC. Seconded JW. Carried.

2 Minutes of previous meeting held 23 July 2008

Motion: "The minutes of the meeting held at Raywood Hotel 23 July 2008, be accepted as a true and accurate record of what took place at the meeting." Moved KW. Seconded DB. Carried.

3 Business arising from previous minutes

4 Correspondence In

- ♦ TB – MCCMA 2008/09 2nd Gen LC Grants Guidelines, Loddon LC Bulletin, 2007/08 LC Group achievements template
- ♦ Clare Millen – NCCMA 2008/09 2nd Gen LC grants Guidelines, DPI News & Views, Vol 18 #2 Winter 2008, Victorian LC magazine Winter 08 Issue 43.
- ♦ Subscription – Forest & Timber Issue 5 Vol 17.
- ♦ Subscription – AGF magazine, Winter 2008.
- ♦ NCCMA – Field day: Using Yoemans principles of Keyline Design to increase production in central Victoria, 254 Mt Carmel-Graytown Rd, Graytown (Amanda McClaren's), 9:45am – 4:00pm Wed 10/9/08.
- ♦ Alec Downey ICT – Presentation in Brazil includes info from Kamo sap flow data.
- ♦ Andrew Lang – Agroforestry Group formation
- ♦ Amanda McClaren – Opportunity for forestry research in USA.
- ♦ School of Forestry, Melb. Uni – Visit to Kamo 30/8/08.

Motion: "That the correspondence be accepted." Moved AG. Seconded GA. Carried.

5 Reports

♦ **President's report** – Ian Rankin reported on dialogue between himself and Mrinal Bhave (Swinburne Uni), that they are looking for more samples of salt tolerant plants. Also requesting letter of support and various information. PD has sent answers and information for some of the questions posed. Mitiamo FC hosted various LC groups for a dinner to map LC work done by the groups. Monday prior to meeting - Gateways project group visited Kamo from East Loddon, Boort, Cohuna and Pyramid Hill schools. Five students from each school will be visiting California, USA on a cultural exchange. KW, JW, PD & IR present. Visit went well.

♦ **Treasurer's report** – Rob Comer reported on NUFG's income and expenditure as at 27 August 2008.

Motion: "That the Treasurer's report at 27 August 2008 be approved and that accounts received be approved for payment." Moved RC. Seconded BB. Carried.

- ♦ **Social Secretary's Report** – Not present (apology). Robyn sent through a proposed itinerary for the NUFG 10 year celebration. It was agreed that the bus trip would be on 25/10/08 starting at 9:30 am from Bendigo, with visits to various locations, Gunbower etc.
- ♦ **Kamarooka** – Phil reported on changes in the ground water. Groundwater responding to 60mm of rainfall in July and has moved up the profile 0.5 to 0.75m. Woody veg areas still 1-2m lower than unwooded areas. Sap flow data continues to illuminate on the water use behaviour of the *E.cladocalyx* and *E.occidentalis* being measured. There is a marked response during the day with trees responding to light and the effect when clouds impinge on the available light and reduced temperatures. It will be really interesting to see what happens during the growing season. After much reading and discussion with experts, Phil relayed to the meeting that organic salts and sugars produced by the trees help them to use the available (saline) ground water through the root systems. Xylem under tension also helps with this.
- ♦ **Climate change Project** – Workshop needs project participants available to be successful. Try for Monday – 2 weeks.
- ♦ **MTG course** – Review sessions 3 and 4. New Co-ordinator Morgana te Pauae. Feedback received from course participants has been favourable.

6 General Business

1. IR – Ownership of trees at Kamo. James read through a preliminary agreement. The meeting discussed the situation & agreed that there should be a meeting between the Hay family and a small representation of NUFG “elders” before the next meeting to further progress the agreement.
2. PD/KW- Pruning/ foliage removal. The meeting discussed the merits of foliage removal versus water use at the Kamo site and the relative importance of form versus water use. An interesting discussion was held.
3. Barbara Lindemann (new member) gave a brief personal background and introduced herself to the group.
4. DB – DPI restructure. All positions vacant, people are re-applying for positions.
5. JW/PD – A facetious motion was tendered regarding manufacture of “soap boxes” and the “stature” of key NUFG executive member(s). Such triviality does not warrant full description.

8 **Meeting closed:** 10:13pm. **Next Meeting:** Raywood Hotel 24 September 2008, starting at 8pm.