



Northern United Forestry Group

Monthly Meeting. Raywood Hotel, 8pm Wednesday 24 October 2007

1 Welcome and Apologies

President Ian Rankin declared the meeting open at 7:55pm.

Present: Rob Comer, Tim Johns, Phil Dyson, Ian Rankin, Mal Brown, Darren Kerr, Ken Wellard, Louise Wellard, Stuart Ayson, Darren Bain, Trevor Barker, Andy Hay, James Williams, Adam Sims

Apologies: John Toll, Shaun Quayle, Georgie Sims, Marg Dack, Amanda McClaren.

Motion: "That the apologies be accepted." Moved MB. Seconded LW. Carried.

2 Minutes of previous meeting held 26 September 2007

Motion: "That the minutes of the meeting held at the Raywood Hotel 26 September 2007, be accepted as a true and accurate record of what took place at the meeting." Moved MB. Seconded KW. Carried.

3 Business arising from previous minutes

Issue/Action	By Whom	By When	Status
Smarttimbers AGM anyone welcome to go with Ian.	NUFG members	7/11/07	
FF Toolbox V5 – Andy Warner CDs not in yet. Training to be delivered when CDs in.	-	-	Active
MTG course – more work done toward NUGF running a course. 3 people have expressed an interest in participating thus far. Geoff Park has been approached.	MB		Ongoing
Quotes from Centre Vic Clothing for hats/t-shirts. More quotes sought	IR/MB		

4 Correspondence In

- ♦ Rhonda Day – letter outlining various dates & up-coming events (National water week, Diversifying agriculture, Native grass field day).
- ♦ Trevor Barker – Wheel cactus field day BBQ Sunday 4/11/07 start at 10am.
- ♦ Forest&Timber Magazine Issue 5 Vol 16.
- ♦ AFG – policy forum 2 day October 16th.

5 Correspondence Out

- ♦ Letters to Gavin Jennings, Theo Theophanous, Joe Helper, Helen Coonan, Mark Vaile and Peter McGauran regarding issues impeding the progress of Climate Change project (ie broadband speed and image quality available to eFARMER).
- ♦ Barry Longstaff – NLP NRIG Dept/Ag, Fisheries & Forestry. Tax invoice Climate change Project.
- ♦ Barry Longstaff – 6 month update on climate change project.
- ♦ NCCMA – 2nd gen landcare grant, James Williams report.

Motion: "That the correspondence be accepted." Moved TB. Seconded PD. Carried.

6 Reports

- ♦ **President's report** – Ian Rankin forwarded a report on his attendance at the Plantation Eucalypts for High Value Timber Conference (9-12 October 2007) attached.
- ♦ **Treasurer's report** – Rob Comer reported on NUFG's income and expenditure as at 24 October 2007.

Motion: "That the Treasurer's report at 24 October 2007 be approved and that accounts received be approved for payment." Moved RC. Seconded DB. Carried.

- ♦ **Social Secretary's Report** – As per report tendered..
- ♦ **Kamarooka Project Report** – Mal took us through the report on the economic evaluation of the Kamo project. The meeting agreed for the sake of the grazing trial to connect water to the salt affected land (about \$1K to set up, economist valued water cartage at ~ \$10K). Mal thanked Andy for his time and contribution toward the project.

Motion: "That the economic report be approved for payment. Ask consultant back in April to the field day.: Moved MB. Seconded PD. Carried.

- ♦ **Kamarooka ground water** - Phil Dyson reported that the big news is that there has been no rain! Thanks Phil. Phil presented data on Bendigo historical rainfall, the last 10 years and the rainfall data from Kamo and Leichardt, making inference on the change in the climate. Groundwater under all treatments is falling due to no rain since August. Congratulations to PD and MB for acceptance of their paper on the work at Kamarooka to the Adelaide International Salinity Conference.
- ♦ **Climate change Project** – 3 Bores have been established at John Toll's. The ground water is at around 3m depth and is around 4-5000ppm. The evaporation pan is up and running. Training for eFARMER has been postponed until after November meeting. IR to supply 6 containers for water collection with guttering under trees.

7 General Business

- ♦ MB – International Salinity Conference in Adelaide at end March 08. Many papers submitted. Phil submitted 3 papers & presenting oral paper on Kamo at the conference. The Kamo project to fund 3 places @ the conference. Phil to go. Andy to go. Final place to be decided at Nov meeting. Tim put forward as 3rd attendee.
- ♦ JW – EBMP should be incorporated into the Climate change project. It is a whole farm planning type tool. Darren Bain was asked to present EBMP at the next eFARMER training session.
- ♦ TB – Landcare in Loddon Shire. Community water grants, Envirofund – latest round, twelve 2nd Generation landcare grants have been successful.
- ♦ MB – Motion: "That the NCCMA and Loddon shire websites to have a link to the NUFG website." Moved MB. Seconded IR. Carried.
- ♦ TB – Sunday 16 December to be put forward as date for Christmas function.
- ♦ MB – Paper to be orally presented at the Adelaide conference be presented at the next NUFG meeting for the benefit of members.
- ♦ MB – suggestion to have a different forestry species for discussion each month to focus the meeting more on forestry issues and added to the agenda. Initial 3 species agreed for 2008, E. Occidentalis, E. Cladocalyx, A. Stenophylla.

8 Meeting closed: 9:26pm. Next Meeting: Raywood Hotel, 8pm Wednesday 28 November 2007.