



## Northern United Forestry Group

### Monthly Meeting. Raywood Hotel, 8pm Wednesday 27 October 2010

#### 1 Welcome and Apologies

President Ian Rankin declared the meeting open at 8:03pm.

**Present:** Phil Dyson, Ian Rankin, Tim Johns, Mal Brown, Bill Gallagher, James Williams, Rob Comer, Keith Murphy, Anne Murphy, Leah Cripps, Andy Hay, John Childs, Howard Perry.

**Apologies:** Malory Weston, Penny Wall, Andrew Wall, Ken Wellard, Darren Bain, Lindsay Cail, Darren Kerr, Robyn McKay.

Motion: "Accept the apologies." Moved JW. Seconded AM. Carried.

#### 2 Minutes of previous meeting held 22 September 2010

Motion: "Minutes of the meeting held at Raywood Hotel 22/9/10, be accepted as a true, accurate record of the meeting." Moved MB. Seconded KM. Carried.

#### 3 Business arising from previous minutes

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| Grade 5/6 from Bendigo schools – 19 November starting 10am at Kamo through to 12 noon. Support from NCCMA. |
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| Campaspe LC group – went well. |
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| NC Biolinks – looking at funding options to get things rolling, still at early stages. Possible to use existing people/ structures such as that set up in LPLCN. |
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#### 4 Correspondence In

- Jean McClymont – Sustainable Soils Planning meeting, Salisbury West & Mt Korong LC groups, Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November 7:30pm, Powlett Plains Hall.
- Rob Freeman (M-D Basin Authority) – Notification of the release of a Guide to the proposed Basin Plan.
- NCCMA – Notification of Maintenance Grant approval and Agreement forms.
- VFF Farm tree and LC Association – AGM minutes, FLTA news, Annual Forum and AGM notification, LC groups and spraying equipment, flyer – achieving farm business success in a risky world, Membership certificate for NUFG, Tax invoice, Australian Framework for LC booklet.
- Australian Forests and Timber News – Nov 2010, Iss 7, Vol 19.
- Seeding Victoria Newsletter, Oct 2010, Vol 1, Iss 2.

#### 5 Correspondence Out

- Ian Rankin – Chloe Hay Volunteer work confirmation – La Trobe University.

Motion: "Accept the correspondence." Moved AH. Seconded PD. Carried.

#### 6 Reports

**President's report** – Ian fed back to the group regarding his (and MB) visit to AFG national conference held in Mt Gambier SA. Talk by Michael Archer, various sessions – all interesting. Lots of speakers at the conference well-known by NUFG members; Andrew Lang, Rhodey Bowman included. Tour included pine plantation and industry visits. Very high tech equipment involved. MB went on low rainfall FF tour as part of the conference. Pine plantations, manna gum and blue gum. Manna gums getting to 55cm dbh in about 15 years. Sandy soils. Have also done direct seeding using equipment towed by a 4 wheel motorbike. Mt Arapiles wildflowers on return were remarkable.

**Treasurer's report** – Rob reported on NUFG's income and expenditure as at 27/10/2010.

Motion: "The Treasurer's report as at 27/10/2010 be accepted, and accounts received approved for payment." Moved RC. Seconded JW. Carried.

**Social Secretary's Report** – Robyn asked via IR re: the Christmas party. Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> December put forward as the date. To be held at the Rankin's (lunch). Drummartin planting day 3<sup>rd</sup> November, starting at 9am – free BBQ lunch at the Drummartin school.

**Kamo/CC2 Report** – Phil related to us that Ed Barrett-Lennard had visited the Kamo site. Lots of photographs and soil samples taken as part of the PIRSA project being undertaken, they have also been given access to the data sets from NUFG. Nadia (PhD recent graduate) visited with Ed.

Trees holding their own with GW levels. PhD student from LaTrobe Uni visiting site shortly working on how carbon is held in the red soils. Chloe Hay performed some pruning at the Kamo site. She has pruned some occidentalis and cladocalyx – 20 hours-worth.

**Loddon Plains LC Network Report** – Mal spoke about the network being made up of various LC groups of which NUFG is a foundation member. Leah Cripps has been employed to pull together all the information from the groups. Leah then introduced herself and spoke about her role.

FF Expo on Friday April 8<sup>th</sup> 2011. Demonstrations of various equipment. Need a tractor to run some of the equipment. Gasifier, Lucas mill, Bioenergy & Biofuel experts will be present. Urban retailers of fire wood.

Last Child in the Woods – September 26<sup>th</sup>, 31 adults, 39 children. Great success - well done to all involved. The meeting thanked Mal for his work on this event. General agreement that the event should become annual.

## **7 General Business**

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| 1. Education Centre at Kamo – KW spoke to Karin Harding at the Bendigo Sustainability Group who felt that the project would suit Climate Communities funding opportunities. The feedback from the group was that we should go ahead and move forward with the purchase. AH was OK with putting a temporary building on the site and discussed the need to ensure the building was sited appropriately. IR and KW will arrange an inspection to find a suitable portable building to purchase. |
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| 2. MB – NUFG forming a chapter of the Australian Forest Growers. How do we rekindle the desire to get more trees in the ground? Enormous benefits. Funds, public liability, directly handled by AFG. Some of the profits go back into local group. Appears to be some merit in joining. Some concerns included; loss of identity, loss or damage of reputation, integrated FF activity, the AFG structure and the repercussions of this. Also what membership means on an individual level. What do funding providers think of AFG? Send out info with the minutes. Item for discussion at the next meeting. |
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| 3. PD – Has re-designed the website. Thanks Phil! |
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| 4. HP – showed some photographs of his property. |
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**Meeting closed:** 10:05 pm.

**Next Meeting:** Raywood Hotel, Wednesday November 24, 2010 at 8pm.