



# Northern United Forestry Group

## Monthly Meeting. Raywood Golf Club, 8pm Wednesday 22 November 2006

### 1 Welcome and Apologies

President Ian Rankin declared the meeting open at 8:16pm.

**Present:** Rob Comer, Mal Brown, Darren Kerr, Tim Johns, Andy Hay, Ken Wellard, Phil Dyson, Ian Rankin, Howard Perry, James Williams, Trevor Barker, Don Brown, Shaun Quayle, Louise Wellard.

**Apologies:** Lindsay Cail, Stuart Ayson, Tim Barden, John Toll, Brian Smith, Marg Dack, Prue Borschmann.

**Motion:** "That the apologies be accepted." Moved James Williams. Seconded Andy Hay. Carried.

### 2 Minutes of previous meeting held 25 October 2006

One correction – incorrectly listed Jim Radford instead of Richard Rettalick as undertaking species counts at Kamarooka site. Corrected minutes to be re-posted on the internet.

**Motion:** "That the minutes of the meeting held at the Raywood Golf Club 25 October 2006, be accepted as a true and accurate record of what took place at the meeting, after correction." Moved Howard Perry. Seconded Mal Brown. Carried.

### 3 Business arising

- ♦ "The Age" article position statement for website. Ken Wellard and Phil Dyson to post position statement on NUGF website from previous correspondence. In progress.
- ♦ Phil Dyson informed that since the last meeting a better deal on website space had been struck over 26 months for 250Mb (instead of previously noted 12 months for 150Mb).

### 4 Correspondence In

- ♦ Ace Labs – blood sampling results from sheep monitoring.
- ♦ Ballarat tree growers – Information day (Brisbane Ranges) Sunday December 17 10:30am-3:00pm.
- ♦ Mrinal Bhavé/ Dr Dan Murphy Swinburne UT – Plant salinity tolerance project. Requires samples from the project site of salt tolerant acacias, eucalypts and saltbushes. DNA to be recorded.
- ♦ DSE – Bush broker credit auction trial.
- ♦ Hydro terra – "On the Level"

### 5 Correspondence Out

- ♦ VFF raffle tickets purchased and sent back.
- ♦ Survey returns for Rhonda Day (x6)

**Motion:** "That the correspondence be accepted." Moved James Williams. Seconded Rob Comer. Carried.

## 6 Reports

- ♦ President's report – Ian Rankin described the recent Chainsaw (crosscut) operator's course conducted by Karl Liffman at both the Wall's and Brown's properties. All who attended were pleased with the course, and even very experienced operators felt that they took new information away from it.
- ♦ Treasurer's report – Rob Comer reported on NUGF's income and expenditure as at 22 November 2006.

**Motion:** "That the Treasurer's report at 22 November 2006 be approved and that accounts received be approved for payment." Moved Rob Comer. Seconded Ken Wellard. Carried.

- ♦ Social Secretary report – James Williams held discussions with those present at the meeting regarding the timing and location of the NUGF Christmas party. It was decided that the Christmas party would be held on Sunday 17 December 2006. 11:00am sharp at the Kamarooka site for interested parties, to observe progress and partake in recording their experiences and key learnings from the site. A BBQ lunch to be provided at the Rankin's property, starting at 12:00. BYO drinks and chairs. Meat and salads to be provided by Loddon shire LandCare (thanks Trevor Barker).
- ♦ Kamarooka report – Mal Brown discussed the blood sampling results on 20 lambs prior to their entering the trial plot. Mal relayed what each of the tests means including the relation of the trial sheep to the "normal" range. Video footage has also been taken of the trees at the Kamarooka site at dawn and also the blood samples being taken as part of building up a "movie" record of the project. Mal then led a discussion on what members feel are the key messages to be learnt from the project. It was also noted that some hares are present on the site and need to be controlled. The form pruning performed earlier in the year has been good and more is required in the appropriate season.
- ♦ AFG conference – Shaun Quayle gave a brief description of some of the sessions he attended as part of the conference. There were 4 concurrent sessions so it was impossible to attend the whole conference but Shaun discussed items from sessions he attended such as sandalwood and salinity in WA, water v trees, and the use of a "hew saw" to recover valuable timber products from nitens and globulus thinnings. Shaun will forward an e-mail report on his findings from the conference to NUGF members.

**Motion:** "That the reports be accepted." Moved Louise Wellard. Seconded Darren Kerr. Carried.

## 7 General Business

- ♦ Phil Dyson started a discussion on an investor he knew of willing to invest substantial funds into forestry in the North-Central region. Discussion included- what is the position of NUGF regarding such investment? A delegation of NUGF members will meet with the investor.
- ♦ Ian Rankin asked for support to assist with Junior School LandCare at the East Loddon school (prompted by discussion with Penny Wall). The initiative is sponsored by Mitre 10. Trevor Barker, Ken Wellard and Ian Rankin agreed to assist.
- ♦ Ian Rankin offered the purchase of a ute/bike pack spray unit to the group for \$150 from a friend selling up his property.

**Motion:** "That the Kamarooka project buy the spray unit for \$150." Moved Mal Brown. Seconded Ken Wellard. Carried.

- ♦ 6 surveys for \$10 ea were completed by NUFG from Rhonda Day. Ian Rankin to follow-up with Rhonda how the funds will be returned to NUFG.
- ♦ Phil Dyson/ Shaun Quayle – photos from Master Tree Grower course placed on the net.
- ♦ Trevor Barker \$50k left over from 2<sup>nd</sup> gen LandCare funding. Trevor stated that if anyone knew of others stressed due to the drought that they may be able to source funds for education for example through this funding.
- ♦ Trevor also reminded the meeting of \$2.6m drought relief funding available for those who derive 70% or more of their income from farming. Forms available from Trevor. Applicable areas include off-stream watering, fencing, pest plant and animal control and native seed collection.

**8 Meeting closed:** 10:00. **Next Meeting:** Raywood Golf Club, 8pm Wednesday 24 January 2007.