



Northern United Forestry Group

Monthly Meeting. Raywood Golf Club, 8pm Wednesday 24 January 2007

1 Welcome and Apologies

President Ian Rankin declared the meeting open at 8:35pm.

Present: Rob Comer, Mal Brown, Darren Kerr, Tim Johns, Andy Hay, Ken Wellard, Phil Dyson, Ian Rankin, James Williams, Shaun Quayle, Louise Wellard, Darren Bain, Greg Rankin, Lindsay Cail, Prue Borschmann

Apologies: Stuart Ayson, John Toll, Sue Bennett, Andrew Wall, Don Brown

Motion: "That the apologies be accepted." Moved Prue Borschmann. Seconded Louise Wellard. Carried.

2 Minutes of previous meeting held 22 November 2006

Motion: "That the minutes of the meeting held at the Raywood Golf Club 22 November 2006, be accepted as a true and accurate record of what took place at the meeting." Moved Ken Wellard. Seconded Shaun Quayle. Carried.

3 Business arising from previous minutes

- ♦ Survey returns – awaiting monies.
- ♦ VFF raffle – no win.

4 Correspondence In

- ♦ Rhonda Day – invoices and purchase orders
- ♦ Rhonda Day – Campaspe Landcare meeting
- ♦ Peter McGauran – NRIG success letter
- ♦ Trevor Barker – Loddon Landcare leaflet
- ♦ Forestry tools mail order catalogue
- ♦ Paula Camenzuli – NCCMA final report request
- ♦ Paula Camenzuli – Memorandum of Understanding Kamarooka project next phase.
- ♦ Richard Rettalick – invoice (27 page report on Kamarooka bird life).
- ♦ Animal ethics committee.
- ♦ Victorian Assoc. Forest Industries – Bushfire information, Pulpwood conference
- ♦ Farm Forestry Toolbox – new version (Ballarat – one to be run in Bendigo)
- ♦ NCCMA – funding seminar
- ♦ City of Greater Bendigo – AXLE project (leadership)
- ♦ Bendigo Floodplain BBQ – Friday 2 Feb Kamarooka Recreation Reserve 6pm.

5 Correspondence Out

- ♦ Expression of Interest form – to Group for NRIG climate change project.

Motion: "That the correspondence be accepted." Moved Phil Dyson. Seconded Andy Hay. Carried.

6 Reports

- ♦ President's report – Ian Rankin made mention of the successful NUFG Christmas party held at the Rankin's, a good day was had by all. Ian also spoke of the Junior Landcare program being undertaken at East Loddon P-10 in both junior and senior

school. A delegation from the group went to East Loddon school late last year and the Landcare program will be part of the curriculum, supported by NUFG members in 2007. Thanks to Ian, Mal, Trevor and Penny for being involved.

- ♦ Treasurer's report – Rob Comer reported on NUFG's income and expenditure as at 24 January 2007.

Motion: "That the Treasurer's report at 24 January 2007 be approved and that accounts received be approved for payment." Moved Rob Comer. Seconded Lindsay Cail. Carried.

- ♦ Kamarooka project – Mal Brown presented information on NUFG website hits (which have continued to rise), as well as the sheep productivity part of the project. The May-drop wethers being monitored, have shown good weight gains in 2 months on the trial site. These are being measured against a control group, which have been on "lucerne". Mal also reported back on the "Pruned Stand Certification" course he and Don attended recently. Mal found it increased his knowledge of how to maintain his own plantation as well as understanding how this type of certification could increase the value of the timber grown in plantations when it comes time to sell. Mal gave a presentation of the video currently being developed for the Kamarooka project.

- ♦ Kamarooka ground water - Phil Dyson presented information from recent bore depth monitoring, and made the following assertions.

- ✿ The head of water in the Kamarooka ground water system (ie upper catchment) has dropped significantly with the lack of rainfall and this means it is not currently putting extra water into the low lying project site.
- ✿ Bore 8 (middle of plantation) ground water level is continuing to fall.
- ✿ There is a high sensitivity to local recharge on the saline areas, ie the ~50mm rainfall in June which saw a significant rise in the ground water level on the site has only just been recovered from in terms of drop in ground water level since, with little additional rainfall.

- ♦ Social Secretary report – James Williams thanked Ian and Leanne Rankin for the enjoyable Christmas party held at their property and for their work towards making the day a great success.

Motion: "That the reports be accepted." Moved Greg Rankin. Seconded Darren Kerr. Carried.

7 General Business

- ♦ Phil Dyson has had discussions with Wendy Radford (Greens) regarding a visit to the Kamarooka plantation. All felt it was a good educational opportunity for political parties of all persuasions to visit the site. It was agreed that this would be a good opportunity to "show-off" the site.

- ♦ Expression of Interest forms – climate change project. Phil gave some background on what the project entails. There was a high level of member interest in the project and a sub-committee was formed to select the remaining 4 member farms of 5 spots available. The sub-committee includes Prue Borschmann, Mal Brown, Phil Dyson, Tim Johns, Ian Rankin and James Williams.

Motion: NUFG purchases an overhead projector to suit connection to a PC (cost ~ \$1,200) for use in communicating about all NUFG projects. Moved Phil Dyson. Seconded James Williams. Carried.

8 Meeting closed: 10:40. Next Meeting: Raywood Golf Club, 8pm Wednesday 28 February 2007.