



Northern United Forestry Group

Minutes of Monthly meeting, Raywood GC, 8 pm Wednesday 26 April 2006

1 Welcome and apologies

The meeting commenced at 8:10 pm. **Present:** Ian Rankin, Mal Brown, Phil Dyson, Shaun Quayle, Andy Hay, Paul Turnbull, Tim Johns, Trevor Barker, Rob Comer, John Toll, Mal Johnson, Stuart Ayson, Ken Wellard, Louise Wellard, Lindsay Cail, Morris Tuffery. **Apologies:** Howard Perry, Lynda Cartwright, Megan Ayson, James Williams, Zoe Toll, Darren Kerr.

Motion: "That the apologies be accepted." Moved Tim Johns. Seconded John Toll. Carried.

2 Minutes of previous meeting held 22 March 2006

Motion: "That the minutes of the meeting held Raywood Golf Club, 22 March 2006, be accepted as a true and accurate record of what took place at the meeting." Moved Andy Hay. Seconded Mal Johnson. Carried.

3 Business arising

• Farm Forestry familiarisation tour

Sub-committee met 31 March to plan trip to visit the Otway Farm Forestry network in early May. Trip to proceed 11 and 12 May 2006. Participants to include Shaun Quayle, Tim Johns, Ian Rankin, Trevor Barker, Darren Bain, Marg Dack, Mal Brown and James Williams. Funding for the trip is coming from the Private Forestry Council grant received in 2005.

• New Member Kit

Ian Rankin advises that the new member kit is being developed with assistance from DPI staff.

• Field Day

See President's report and General Business

• Firewood Cooperative and Peppergreen Farm

Ken Wellard advised that he is still exploring this issue and is yet to report. Note: Peppergreen Farm is advertising firewood for sale at \$90 per tonne in the Bendigo Advertiser each Saturday.

• Seed Orchard

Ken Wellard advised that the two species most suitable for Seed Orchard status in NUGF's area are *Acacia stenophylla* and *Eucalyptus tricarpa*. A third species is the *Casuarina Cunninghhamiana/Cristata* cross. Ken is yet to develop a process for establishing a seed orchard.

• Chainsaw course

Ian Rankin reported on his research into a chainsaw course. The Forestry Training Centre at Creswick can run the course. The course on offer runs for one week with a maximum of five participants. This course does not include tree felling. The Government subsidised cost is \$150 per person. Accommodation is \$46 per person per night (includes continental breakfast). If funding is not available then the full cost is \$750 per person for the five-day course. Paul Turnbull advised that he would investigate a Bendigo person who could run the course.

4.1 Correspondence in

- Field Day notice: 'Environmental benefits of Plantations' Lexton, 16 May. [From David Fiskin, CVFP].
- Cheque for \$88,000 from North Central CMA on behalf of National Landcare Program Community Support Fund. Funding is for Year One of Kamarooka Project Stage 3.
- Website statistics from Smartyhost. See Figure 1.

4.2 Correspondence out

- Minutes of March meeting
- Invoice to North Central CMA for \$88,000 for NLP grant.
- Invoice to Trevor Barker, Loddon Shire Council, for \$300 re contribution to 7 April, Field Day.

Motion: "That the correspondence be accepted." Moved Stuart Ayson. Seconded Lindsay Cail. Carried.

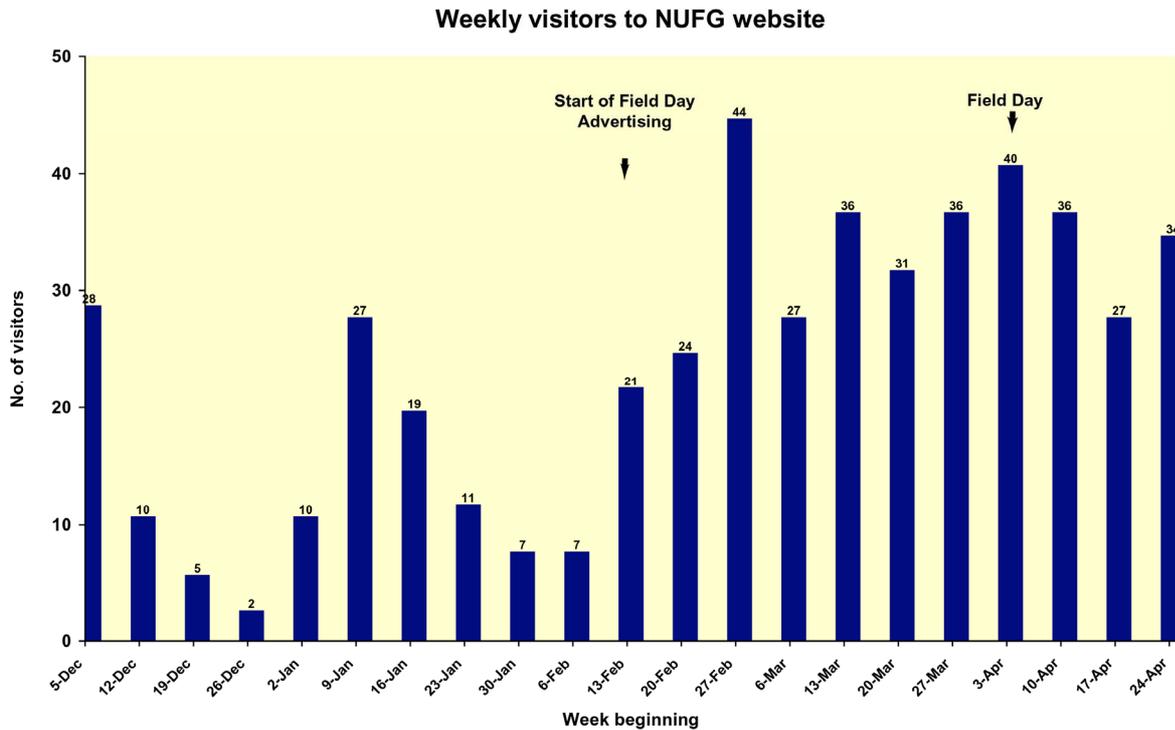


Figure 1: Visitors to NUFG website (www.nufg.org.au). Dec 2005 - Apr 2006. (Data provided by Smartyhost).

5 Reports

President's report

Ian Rankin reported on the successful Field Day held at Kamarooka on Friday, 7 April 2006. Ian thanked all those who helped out both in the lead up to the event and on the day.

Treasurer's Report

Rob Comer submitted a detailed report for the last month of activity.

Motion: "That the Treasurer's report at 26 April 2006 be accepted and that accounts received totalling \$11,743.00 be approved for payment." Moved Rob Comer. Seconded Tim Johns. Carried.

Phil Dyson - Kamarooka Project Update and NUFG website

Phil Dyson tabled a detailed report of his activities relating to the hydrogeology at Kamarooka. He explained the latest hydrographs incorporating data downloaded from the data loggers since the last meeting and presented a draft paper summarising the story at Kamarooka so far.

Phil also reported on tasks completed for the NUFG website. See Attachment 1.

Shaun Quayle requested that Phil plot the surface and depth to watertable for all bores in a transect through the Kamarooka project site.

Tim Johns - Hand Held Pruning Equipment, Farm Forestry and Apiary

Tim reported that he is still working through the permits required for signage on the Calder Hwy at Leichardt to promote NUFG.

6 General Business

Kamarooka Field Day review

- Lindsay Cail reported that 73 people came through the gate.
- Lindsay thanked all those who supported the field day, particularly Andy and the Hay family for their cooperation.
- Catering quantities were appropriate. Perhaps more salad next time.
- Website statistics show that the Field Day had an impact on visitor traffic (see Figure 1).
- Ian Rankin's radio interview on 3 April resulted in an increase of hits to the website.

- Win TV covered the Field Day in the 6pm news on Friday 7 April.
- As part of the review, group members expressed the view that the next field day should include a trial run for all speakers so that the key points to be communicated are clearly articulated. It was felt that speakers missed some key points this time.
- Paul Turnbull noted the increase in visitor traffic to the website and asked "Why is the Kamarooka project so successful, and how can we leverage this interest into added benefits for members?" Tim Johns suggested that all members give some thought to this question and respond at the May meeting.

John Toll's conference report

- John Toll, farmer at Gunbower and NUFG member, represented NUFG at the Veg Futures – Greening Australia's National Native Vegetation Conference in Albury, 19th – 23rd March 2006.
- Geoff Park, NCCMA, facilitated John's involvement in the event.
- John reported that approximately 350 people attended.
- Key speakers included Carl Binning, Greening Australia, Peter McGuaran, Federal Minister for Agriculture and Bill Knight, Manager Revegetation Programs at Alcoa.
- Highlights of the field visits for John were Andrew Robb's broad acre farm, the DPI Rutherglen Farm Forestry Plantation and David Marsh's farm just outside Canberra where a sheep enterprise is based on broad acre native grasses.
- Information on the conference outcomes will be published at www.greeningaustralia.org.au - Click on the Veg Futures icon.

Sandalwood trial

- There was some discussion about Ben Boxshall's sandalwood trials on his own property and at Tim Barden's and Rob Comer's properties. Progress on these trials will be reported to future meetings.

Possible Calivil Planting

- Trevor Barker requested that NUFG share its expertise with the Calivil Landcare Group and provide advice on a public land revegetation project at Calivil.

Trees available from Greenfleet

Greenfleet has 14,000 trees (revegetation species) available for a revegetation project that did not go ahead at Dunolly. If interested in locking up the carbon for 100 years (the trees cannot be cut down) contact Ken Wellard on Ph. (03) 5446 9260 Mobile: 0419 712 701 Email: neangarnursery@bigpond.com

Website of the month

- Members are encouraged to visit the Forestry tools website: www.forestrytools.com.au

7 Meeting closed at 10:00pm.

Next Meeting

Raywood Golf Club, 8pm Wednesday, 24 May 2006.

Hydrogeology and Website Development Portfolio

Report to the Northern United Forestry Group

26 April 2006,

Phil Dyson

Things hydrogeological:

- (1) The additional monitoring bores requested by NUFG have been constructed within the Kamarooka Project. Three were established in the new treatment area immediately east of the main site, and one within the northern remnant vegetation. All head-works have been completed but the bores have yet to be bailed and fully commissioned for monitoring.
- (2) The geophysical survey of the new site (also requested by NUFG) has been completed and the results have been received from DPI. One map (elevation) remains outstanding.
- (3) Eight new bore loggers and one new barometric pressure logger have been supplied in accordance with stage 2 of the Kamarooka project. All instruments have now been calibrated and installed. Six have been installed within the trial area and two within the immediate catchment.
- (4) One electronic rainfall logger and one tipping bucket recorder has been received from suppliers. An appropriate base has been constructed to house the unit and the software required to program and drive the instrumentation has been successfully applied. The unit has been calibrated and deployed.
- (5) Additional historical bore records have been acquired from the DPI groundwater database and an appropriate hydrographs has been plotted.
- (6) Manual groundwater monitoring has been completed for April 2006 and the results have been posted on the NUFG website.

Website development:

- (1) The Kamarooka field day page was established and the promotional information developed by Mal Brown posted to the website.
- (2) NUFG membership application forms have been posted to a new page on the website
- (3) NUFG 'contact us' page has been upgraded
- (4) NUFG Field Day highlights including photos have been posted to the website
- (5) Minutes of the March NUGH meeting have been posted to the website.
- (6) April results of Kamarooka groundwater monitoring program have been posted to the website
- (7) Website statistics have been acquired and supplied to Mal Brown.
- (8) Kamarooka project poster prepared by Mal Brown uploaded to a new page on website.