

Presidents Report 2007 / 2008

I want to thank all the members of Northern United Forestry Group (NUFG) for your hard work, support and help in making our group what it is today. Your efforts have made NUGF a highly respected group amongst federal, state and local government agencies, as well as scientific and local community groups and individual farmers.

Highlights of the past year have been:

- 1 Successful farm forestry tour of member's plantations in August 2007.
- 2 Launch of our Kamarooka Project DVD by Dr Sharman Stone, Federal Member for Murray, at the Raywood Hotel in August 2007.
- 3 In September 2007, Leanne and myself attended the Victorian Landcare Awards at Government House as the Group had been nominated for the Alcoa Community Group Award. However, we were not successful.
- 4 Several members and myself attended the Eucalypt for High Value Timber conference held in Melbourne and Gippsland, in October 2007.
- 5 The International Salinity Conference, in March, was attended by Andy Hay, Shaun Quayle and Phil Dyson. Phil presented on the Kamarooka Project to the Adelaide conference and generated significant interest in our work.
- 6 In April 2008 we held a very successful Field Day on the Kamarooka Project site. Over 170 people attended this field day from across Victoria. Many thanks to the members who helped make the day a success. The field day also helped to attract new members to the group. At the Field Day our new Salt Bush Seeder was on display thanks to Greening Australia.
- 7 Prior to the Field Day the group hosted visitors from East Loddon P12 and Pembroke College to the Kamarooka Project site. Thanks to the members who helped with the presentations to the students.
- 8 The April 2008 Field Day also marked the announcement that NUGF would deliver a 2008 Master Tree Growers (MTG) Program in partnership with the North Central CMA and Melbourne University. This important initiative was announced by the Hon Jacinta Allan, Minister for Regional & Rural Development, Minister for Skills & Workforce Participation and Member for Bendigo East. The MTG course is to commence in August.
- 9 Other visits to the Kamarooka Project site have included:
 - o The National Landcare Facilitator
 - o Shire of Campaspe Landcare Network Groups
 - o International Salinity Experts
- 10 NUGF members attended the Loddon Landcare dinner held at Serpentine in May where Shanaka Fernando was the guest speaker.

In finalising this report I would like to, on behalf of NUGF, thank Trevor Barker from the Loddon Shire, Amanda McClaren, Geoff Park, Dan Mudford from NCCMA, also DPI staff members for their support during the past year.

Ian Rankin
NUFG President
23 July 2008