



New Zealand Grassland Association Inc

Minutes of the 70th Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Grassland Association Incorporated held at the Marlborough Club, Blenheim, on Wednesday 15 October 2008 at 6.25 pm

PRESENT: John Caradus (Chair) and 24 members of the Association

In attendance: Ross White (Executive Officer)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from , Marie Casey, Deric Charlton, Ross Duder, Tom Fraser, Dave Goodenough, Colin Holmes, Peter Hook, David Hume, Russell Hurst, Richard Hurt, Dick Lucas, Dick Martin, Derek Woodfield

Agreed: That the apologies be accepted (Chair)

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Agreed: That the minutes of the 69th Annual General Meeting held at the Bayview Wairakei Hotel on Wednesday 16 November 2007 be declared a true and correct record of proceedings (Malcom Guy/Pat Garden)

3. Matters arising

The Executive Officer explained the tax position.

4. President's report

John Caradus spoke to his report, which was taken as read. He also thanked the sponsors (especially AgResearch), members, the Executive, the Editor, the Executive Officer and Local Organising Committee.

Agreed: That the President's report be adopted (Anders Crofoot/Pat Garden)

Malcolm Guy thanked John on behalf of members for his efforts during his term of office.

5. Audit Committee report

Ants Roberts spoke to his report, noting the pleasing surplus that had been achieved. He pointed out that the audit report was tagged as final details were to be worked out, but that there were no irregularities. He submitted the 2006/7 and 2007/8 accounts for approval.

Agreed: That the 2006/7 accounts be approved (Ants Roberts/David Stevens)

Agreed: That the 2007/8 accounts be approved (Ants Roberts/Pat Garden)

6. Future options

John led the meeting through the various alternatives open to the Association. Its principal objective is to make research more freely available: this might involve using the website to open archives (at least at abstract level) to non-members,

save for the latest papers, for example. In reply to Gavin Sheath's question (is this definite?) John said that it is one possibility, and a subcommittee has been formed. Colin Brown noted that there has been an expectation that research would be more widely available. Graham Kerr advocated a stronger search methodology. John said that David Stevens will lead this process.

7. Election of Officers

John said that it has 'been an honour' to lead the Grassland Association. He then passed the chair to Ross White, who called for nominations for President. Pat Garden (Jacqueline Rowarth/Anders Crofoot) was the sole nomination and was duly declared elected to acclamation.

John resumed the chair and called for nominations for the position of Vice-President. Anders Crofoot (Derrick Moot/David Stevens) was the sole nomination and was duly declared elected to acclamation.

John then called for nominations for two Executive vacancies, noting with regret that Bruce Thorrold has resigned.

Nominations were received for Warwick Lissaman (Chris Dawkins/Ian Blair) and Graham Kerr (John Caradus/Alister Metherell). There being no other nominations the Chair declared them duly elected.

John noted that Errol Thom has accepted the position of Editor.

8. Appointment of Auditors

John noted that the auditors, Clarke Craw of Dunedin, have been re-appointed.

9. NZ Grassland Trust

Brian Guy presented the annual report of the Trust. He thanked his fellow trustees and Grant Douglas for their efforts. He expressed the hope that the Trust and the Association would work even more closely together.

10. Conference 2009

John announced that the 2009 conference will be held at Waitangi on 2-5 November under the chairmanship of Laurie Copland.

11. Joint Conference 2010

NZGA will hold a joint conference with the Australian and New Zealand Agronomy societies in Christchurch in 2010. Derrick Moot will chair the LOC. 500-600 delegates may attend. It will probably be held at Lincoln.

12. Conference 2011

The 2011 Conference is scheduled for Gisborne.

13. General Business

Membership

John said membership now stands at about 900, but should be higher. Voluntary organisations are losing members generally. Need to target farmers, especially between conferences. Graham Kerr suggested using rural media to tell farmers



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what NZGA offers them. Gavin Sheath said that members would respond to a personal call from NZGA's leaders. John noted that agribusiness membership is relatively high. NZGA needs to promote its key difference, which is the focus on providing a focus for all sectors of the industry.

IGC/IRC

Gavin Sheath reported that 55 New Zealanders went to the congress, The next IRC will be in Argentina in 2 years, and in New South Wales in 2013 – David Kemp is the New Zealand rep on the organising committee.

South Island Seminar

Members asked why the Omarama seminar was cancelled, and what effect the cancellation would have on NZGA's reputation. John replied that the intent of the seminar was to extend NZGA's influence, but it was felt that the timing was wrong. He had spoken with the chair of the LOC. The Association is still looking for innovative ways to reach the regions.

There being no further general business, Gavin Sheath thanked the retiring President on behalf of members. The meeting closed at 7.06 pm