

# **Minutes of the 84th Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Grassland Association Incorporated**

**Wednesday 5.30pm November 20212  
Ascot Hotel, Invercargill**

PRESENT: Laurie Copland (Chair) and 45 members of the Association

## **1. Apologies**

Apologies were J Kerslake, W Catto, D Lucas, P McDougall, G Ludemann

Agreed: That the apologies be accepted (M Dood/ sec C Smith)

## **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

Agreed: That the minutes of the 83rd Annual General Meeting held online, Wednesday 8th December 2021 are declared a true and correct record of proceedings (W King/ sec D Dalley).

## **3. Matters arising**

No matters arising.

## **4. President's report.**

Laurie Copland spoke to his report which was taken as read.

L Copland noted that the year has continued to be disruptive and NZGA missed a conference for the first time since war disrupted things.

The executive attempted to continue as normally as possible over this time and produced a combine Journal (82/83); JNZG 84 as well as the revised Research and Practice 8 (5<sup>th</sup> edition).

The Executive are working to improve the editorial process over the next 12 months as this Journal highlighted some issues.

L Copland thanked our family of sponsors for the continued support, and AgResearch for their continuation as a premium sponsor of the Association. Also, both the Agronomy Society and NZ society of Animal Production for joining us this year.

Thanks to the Executive Office team, Marie Casey and Glenis Thomas for their work through the year in running the day to day management and financial transactions of the Association, that keep the Association on track.

A special thanks must go to Chris Smith and the Invercargill Local Organising committee for yet another well executed conference. This team has persisted for more than 3 years and 4 postponements to bring us this conference so a huge thanks for this effort.

L Copland noted that this conference, the first as face-to-face event since Napier 2019, shows that we have a great, unique Association, that has a very positive and friendly culture.

## **5. Audit Committee report**

M Dodd presented the Annual Accounts on behalf of J Kerslake, absent due to Covid.

MD thanked L Copland for his long service on the Audit Committee and his role as its chair.

The conference is important for both its financial and social impact. During the last 2 years the Resilient Pastures Symposium in April 2021 was critical for interaction and engagement as well as its financial input. This Symposium produced a publication as well as a Green paper for Policy discussion and a video/podcast.

Membership: In 2016 NZGA had 900 members; now there are 766. It is important we continue to offer value to members and not lose sight of the importance of our members.

Sponsorship: This increased during Covid as our sponsors continued to support us. This was very much appreciated. In addition, we recognise the in-kind sponsorship from organisations – particularly in supporting members of Exec and Local organising committee to continue in their role.

Financial performance: NZGA has recorded a deficit for this year – our worst year for a long time. Some costs such as travel are lower for obvious reasons.

M Dodd highlighted the foresight of previous executives to build up a solid financial base to enable us to survive covid.

As is required by the Association Rules the Accounts have been independently reviewed this year.

Noted the Accounts and notes are on the website.

MD moved that the Accounts be accepted

sec A Crofoot All Approved

## **6. Election of Officers**

M Casey called for nominations for President. Laurie Copland (W King/J Caradus) was the sole nomination and was duly declared elected to acclamation.

Vice-President – Chris Smith (David Stevens/Tom Fraser) was the sole nomination and was duly declared elected to acclamation.

L Copland noted that there were 2 resignations from the Executive this year – J Kerslake and L Keenan. He thanked Jo and Laura for their efforts and time spent on the Executive.

He noted that there are two vacancies were now open on the Executive committee due to rotation.

- Fraser Harrison (nominated L Keenan/ W King)
- Mike Dodd (nominated L Copland/C Smith)

There being no other nominations the Chair declared the above duly elected.

L Copland congratulated the successful nominees.

L Copland invited J Caradus to present the NZ Grassland Trust Annual Report.

## **7. NZ Grassland Trust**

John Caradus presented his report as the chair of the NZGT. Every year the NZGT provides these awards to be presented at conference. As a result of continued Covid challenges the NZGT did not present the Farmer, Regional or David Scott Award.

- 2020 Levy Scholarships (\$3000) – Penny Stilgoe and Callum Jamie (Lincoln University); Oliver Arnold and Anna Wilson (Massey University)
- Ray Brougham Trophy – Dr Alison Popay

### ***NZGT Activities***

The Trust provided \$10 000 towards the production costs of the Pasture and Forage Plants for New Zealand publication – with new sections on environmental issues and forage quality, along with re-refresh of cultivars; pasture renewal; minor species and endophytes.

John Caradus was co-opted onto the working group for the completion of the paper entitled “GREENER PASTURES: Priorities for a low-footprint, high-value food producing future” which was developed based on the knowledge, analysis, and feedback of those who participated in the Resilient Pastures Symposium at Karapiro in May 2021. The purpose of this paper is to deliver on the objectives of the Symposium, namely to:

- synthesise the current state of our pastures as seen through the various perspectives of the delegates, and
- propose priorities for consideration by key stakeholders, including the significant investors already supporting Research, Development & Extension (RD&E), as they address the challenges ahead.

This has now been published on-line (link - <https://www.grassland.org.nz/books.php>) and will be used to influence decision makers in wellington and industry bodies. This will be achieved through a planned webinar and face-to-face meetings.

Deric Charlton has completed a history of NZGA/NZGT personnel and characters. An electronic version is now available on the NZ Grassland Trust portal on the NZGA website. The link to this fascinating history is - <https://www.grassland.org.nz/nzgt.php>.

Thanks to all Trustees who have contributed to the Trust's affairs during the year and to Bruce Belgrave who continues to provide effective administrative support in his capacity as secretary/treasurer. Current Trustees are - John Caradus, Errol Thom (Ellett Trust), Derek Woodfield, Anders Crofoot, David Stevens, Pat Garden, Jacqueline Rowarth, Warren King, and Alan Stewart. He thanked Bruce Belgrave for his continuing work supporting the Trust administration.

John Caradus noted that he will be standing down as Chair at the 2023 AGM but remaining as a Trustee.

#### **8. Conference 2024**

The next conference is planned for Oamaru. The LOC chair is Julie Kearney with support from Grant Ludemann and Russell Hurst.

#### **9. Conference 2025**

To be confirmed

#### **10. General Business**

##### **IGC Update**

The IGC is to be held in Kentucky in Amay 2023 in Kentucky, the first time in the USA since 1990.

Organisers main concern is around sponsorship – currently approximately \$220,000 US committed, the organisers are looking for \$600,000.

2027 – 26<sup>th</sup> IGC is planned for Leipzig, Germany with the theme of “Hundred years of grassland research”.

##### **Greener Pastures**

P Garden would like to see NZGA more proactively promote Greener Pastures to a wider audience. There was discussion re the role of NZGA and continued advocacy. Agreed that there should be continued effort in getting the message from the Greener Pastures paper spreads more widely.

**Meeting closed at 6:12 pm**