

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

Wednesday 6.00pm November 2023
Rydges Hotel, Rotorua

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

1. Apologies

Apologies were - Derek Woodfield, Tom Fraser, Christine Christensen, Ian Brookes, Shirley Nichols, Simon Stokes, Maurice and Mereke Yorke (Please accept my apology for non-attendance at this year's 2023 NZGA Rotorua Conference. I have missed very few since our first in Southland 1978. A conference is to confer. See you next year), Peter Tod, Alec Mackay, Alistair Black, Peter McDougall, Grant Ludemann

Agreed: That the apologies be accepted (P Garden/ sec J Chrystal)

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Agreed: That the minutes of the 83rd Annual General Meeting held Wednesday 16th November 2022 are declared a true and correct record of proceedings (L Copland/ sec D Stevens).

3. Matters arising

No matters arising.

4. President's report.

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

He noted a return to normality after 2 years of disruption, and a successful conference in Invercargill.

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.

The work on the Editorial process is ongoing and I would like to the Associate editors, it is an added workload for them. Marie has taken on the role of Chief Editor for this year, in part to understand what the role requires. This is a separate role to that of her EO responsibilities. I wish to thank her for this.

He thanked the members of the Rotorua Local organising committee. I also want to extend my thanks to Warren King for staying on the Exec. as a co-opted member to help with Rotorua after retiring as President and to thank Mark Brown for chairing the Rotorua LOC.

In May about 30 New Zealanders attended the IGC in Kentucky. The association along with the Trust sponsored 3 members to attend.

As this is my last term as President, I would like to express my thanks to the members of the Exec. for the work that they do on a voluntary basis.

I would also like to thank the EO team of Marie and Glenis for the support work they do. Since I was first on the Exec. the financial organisation has become more professional and gives confidence that our association is well run.

Thank you, I've enjoyed my time on the Exec. and working along side other members over the years, including those that have retired during that period.

Moved L Copland Sec G Kerr

5. Audit Committee report

M Dodd presented the Annual Accounts

MD noted that comparisons with the last two years were difficult due to the impacts of covid. However, the surplus from the Invercargill conference will allow NZGA to channel money into reserves.

He thanked the generous support of our sponsors and encouraged our members to continue to support these companies.

W Catto asked if NZGA had a financial reserves policy. MD replied that the interest from the invested monies provided for student travel and other grants as required. Low interest rates significantly reduced the amount available. L Copland added the conference needed to make a surplus between \$10-20,000 for the Association to stay level.

Noted the Accounts and notes are on the website.

MD moved that the Accounts be accepted

sec D Dalley All Approved

6. Election of Officers

M Casey called for nominations for President. Chris Smith (L Copland/W Catto) was the sole nomination and was duly declared elected to acclamation.

Vice-President – Alistair Black (in absentia) (Chris Smith/Mike Dodd) was the sole nomination and was duly declared elected to acclamation.

L Copland resumed the chair. He noted that there is one vacancy now open on the Executive committee due to rotation.

- Sheree Balvert (nominated C Smith/ W King)

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.

- Invercargill NZGT Farmer Awards – Nigel and Linda Gilkinson, Euan and Diane Matheson
- Invercargill NZGT Regional Award – Ivan Lines, Agribusiness
- 2022 Levy Scholarships (\$3000) – Penny Stilgoe and Callum Jamie (Lincoln University); Oliver Arnold and Anna Wilson (Massey University)
- David Scott Award
- Ray Brougham Trophy – Dr David Chapman

J Caradus stood down as Chair of the NZGT at their AGM, J Rowarth is the incoming President. JR thanked JC for his efforts on the Trust, of which he has been a member since 2008. JC will remain as a trustee.

8. Conference 2024

The next conference is planned for Oamaru. The LOC chair is Julie Kearney

9. Conference 2025

The conference is to be held in Hamilton.

10. General Business

- **Amendment to NZGA Rules proposed**

L Copland moved the motion as below

sec C Smith All agreed

Motion 1

The words "Technical Editor" be deleted from Rule 6 (line 1) and Rule 7."

Notes to motion

Changes have been made to the Editorial Process and role of Editor. Roles of Associate Editor have been created to assist the technical Editor to produce the Journal. The Editor has recently been a professional role rather than a service by members. The changes to the editorial process mean the Technical Editor no longer has a role on the Executive. We should change the Rules of NZGA to reflect this.

- **Planned Government changes to rules for Incorporated Societies**

L Copland moved the motion as stated below

sec A Crofoot All agreed

Motion 2

That the members agree that the Executive of the NZGA begin the process to enable reregistration as an Incorporated Society before April 2026. This would include amending the constitution, so it complies with the 2022 Act (i.e. dispute resolution and officer consent forms).

Notes to motion

- Existing incorporated societies (those incorporated under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908) will need to reregister under the 2022 Act if they want to remain as an incorporated society. NZGA already meets most of the requirements of the 2022 Act so there are only some small amendments to make.
- If the society decides not to reregister we must apply for it to be dissolved, or appoint a liquidator, before 5 April 2026.
- More information on reregistration and what it means -<https://is-register.companiesoffice.govt.nz/help-centre/reregistering/getting-ready-for-reregistering/>

- **Letter to NZGA – G Sheath**

G Sheath wrote to the Executive after the Invercargill conference re concerns about the lack of farmers and farmer involvement. How do we get more farmer membership and members on the Executive?

He proposed that the Executive have a strategic review and plan the considers the future of conferences.

Action: L Copland agreed that the executive would continue to work on this

Meeting closed at 6:54 pm