

## Australian Forest Growers (Tasmanian Branch)

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

5:00pm, Thursday, 24 August 2017

Board Room, The Tramsheds, 4 Invermay Road, Inveresk 7428

#### DRAFT MINUTES

- 1. Present:** Frank O'Connor, Tony Stonjek, Keith Darke, Robin Dickson, Neville Calvert, Nigel Calvert, Ross Henderson, Mark Cornelius, Des King, Arthur Lyons.
- 2. Apologies were received and accepted:** Tony Cannon, Gordon McCutchan, Mark Cornelius, Bob Gordon and Lawrence Archer?,
- 3. Election of Tasmanian Branch Executive Committee Members**  
Nominations were received for the Executive Committee.

<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Nominator</b>
Frank O'Connor	Ross Henderson
Mark Cornelius	Tony Stonjek
Roger Poltock	Arthur Lyons
Des King	Robin Dickson
Neville Calvert	Arthur Lyons
Robin Dickson	Des King
Arthur Lyons	Nigel Calvert
Tony Stonjek	Nigel Calvert
Ross Henderson	Tony Stonjek
Nigel Calvert	Tony Stonjek
Greg Unwin	Arthur Lyons
Tony Cannon	Neville Calvert

The nominees were elected unopposed.

- 4. Election of Office Bearers**  
Nominations were received for the Executive Committee.

<b>Office Bearer</b>	<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Nominator</b>	<b>Seconded</b>
President	Nigel Calvert	Arthur Lyons	Tony Stonjek
Vice President	Robin Dickson	Ross Henderson	Neville Calvert
Secretary/Treasurer	Arthur Lyons	Nigel Calvert	Robin Dickson
NRM North rep	Lawrence Archer (pending agreement)	Arthur Lyons	Greg Unwin
Grower Magazine rep	Tony Cannon (pending agreement)	Robin Dickson	Tony Stonjek
Policy Committee	Nil		

The nominees were elected unopposed.

## 5. Minutes of Previous AGM

The minutes of the 2015 AGM were received and accepted for the record.

**Moved:** The minutes be accepted. Moved (Tony Stonjek), Seconded (Robin Dickinson).  
Carried.

## 6. Business Arising

### **AFG Position with respect to regulation/fees and charges**

At AGM 2016, Mark Cornelius suggested that AFG develop a position on regulation, fees and charges that impact on forest growers which have increased over the years (see AGM 2016 minutes for details). To this end, AFG (TAS) wrote to the Minister proposing changes to the levy calculation for consideration. Members of the executive met with Jeff Battersby A/CEO PFT in August 2017 to discuss this and other matters. The meeting was productive and the A/CEO was receptive to AFG's position. PFT is well aware of this long standing issue and is looking at potential options, bearing in mind there are legislative limitations on what can be implemented. AFG proposed that basal area could be a more equitable measure of the intensity of harvesting for purposes of levy calculation. At the AFG AGM 2017 there was consensus that the levy be based on the operational area however that is best described. AFG understands that A/CEO will follow up and reply to AFG. Note; PFT received the letter AFG wrote to the Minister concerning this and other matters and PFT will draft a reply.

## 7. President's Report

The report was presented by Nigel Calvert viz:

*Australian Forest Growers Tasmania Branch – Annual General Meeting 2016/17  
Presidents Report*

“The years’ activities for the Executive were divided into two this year, that being, pre the Launceston AFG Biennial Conference, where the Conference Organising Committee meetings chaired by Tony Cannon took the place of our regular executive meetings, and post Conference when we returned to our more regular format.

I thank all executive members, Tony Cannon, Greg Unwin, Robin Dickson, Frank O`Connor, Ross Henderson, Neville Calvert ,Des King, Lawrence Archer, Tony Stonjek , Mark Cornelius, and Arthur Lyons for their contributions ,support and guidance throughout the year. I would especially like to acknowledge and thank those that were instrumental in the success of the conference that delivered a profit in the vicinity of \$79 000 for the National Office not to mention the educational and networking opportunities that were provided in abundance to all that attended.

So, thanks must go to Tony Cannon for chairing the Organising Committee, overseeing the budget and contractual arrangements and for hosting the wrap up meeting and dinner gathering in December. Robin Dickson for organising and leading the pre-conference tour that was an outstanding success, Greg Unwin, who somehow managed to collect and collate all the abstracts and coordinate them into a terrific program, and also add in the grower workshops.

And to Arthur Lyons for the huge load that he shouldered as conference convenor, and sponsor liaison, and in general making sure that all ducks lined up perfectly .It was wonderful to see both Greg and Arthur receive awards presented at the Conference dinner.

I would also like to acknowledge the help received from National Office , Dr Kevin Harding, National President, AFG, for his advice from a National perspective, and for his role as MC during the event, and to Sarah Paradice, AFG Executive Officer, for the budgetary, logistical and office support during the organisational phase, and for on ground works during the event.

AFG is grateful to all the national and state sponsors of the Conference, those that presented and spoke, hosted exhibits and lastly to the delegates that attended. Thank you also to those AFG members who supported and attended the conference and field days. We were particularly pleased that Assistant Minister Anne Rushton, Department of Agriculture, Water and Resources opened the event and the Hon. Guy Barnett, Minister for Resources, addressed the Welcome Function.

Provided a comprehensive post conference report to AFG national office on the 2016 conference.

We were delighted to receive a letter from The Tasmanian Premier (20/12/2016) congratulating AFG on conducting the national conference.

The National Tree Farmer of the Year Award was presented at the Conference dinner. , and it was wonderful to see that award won by Tasmanians Roger and Outhay Poltock despite a very strong field of candidates I would like to thank Department of Agriculture, Water and Resources for again generously sponsoring the Award. I thank the National Award Committee, convened by Arthur Lyons, and the independent judges for conducting the Award.

Since the conference, the Executive has met on three occasions, and I would like to thank Private Forests Tasmania for once again hosting us at the Prospect offices.

*Key issues that we have dealt with have included,*

- Input into the PFT services levy with support for the levy remaining at \$15.00 /ha.
- Ongoing correspondence and discussions with A/CEO, PFT, over whether there are ways to make the levy more equitable.
- Met with and started conversation with Rob De Fégley and Steve Whitely of Sustainable Timbers Tasmania about cross tenure issues.
- At request of A/CEO PFT and Ministers office, provided support for the re-appointment of Tony Cannon to the PFT Board, and also supported two other high quality candidates for the vacant positions as well as identifying potential female candidates.
- Had communications with the Minister in regard to items flagged in the Ministerial Statement: Forests ,and in the Ministerial Advisory Council report , such as the PFT consult, driving investment in private forests and in equity of fees and charges with respect to environmental cost sharing.
- Thanked Tom Fisk for his service as CEO, PFT, during what has undoubtedly been a challenging period.

- Provided articles for the Grower magazine.
- In anticipation to the forthcoming PFT 'consult' AFG (TAS) developed a draft position paper on the Roles & Functions of PFT.

*Activities (in addition to the Conference)*

Co-hosted the 2016 annual farm forestry dinner where we had Rob De Fegley , Co-Chair Forest Industry Advisory Council, Chair of Sustainable Timbers Tas, and Director Margules Groome Consulting P/L and Peter Volker, Chief Forest Practices Officer, Forest Practices Authority addressed the 72 attendees.

Co-hosted, with PFT, the Tree Farmer of the Year Field day on the Roger and Outhay Poltocks' Wilmot property to celebrate and share their achievements in a stunning part of the State.

*Membership*

The membership has been maintained. We thank Sarah Paradise, Executive Officer, AFG National Office for her efforts to maintain membership.

*Financial Account*

AFG (TAS), like the other branches, has a nominal account with a balance of \$ 5059.57 being predominately from the Conference.

*Correspondence to the Minister for Resources included:*

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|-----------|--|
| 21/6/2017 | Seeking government's views/actions on fees and charges applicable to independent forest owners, encouragement on new investment in plantations and environmental cost burdens borne by private forest owners.                                      |
| 20/6/2017 | Thanking him for the opportunity to support the nomination of candidates for the Board of PFT and that suitable female candidates were unlikely to be found.   |
| 29/4/2017 | Accepting his late apology to the TFOTYA field day and promoting the Poltocks' achievements (following AFG invitation to attend dated 7/4/2017)  |
| 7/4/ 2017 | Seeking government's policy on public or private investment in forestry on land owned by individual farmers and their families and to what extent does government, or industry for that matter, wish to facilitate this type of forestry activity. |
| 3/2/2017  | Confirming preparedness of AFG to participate in the PFT 'consult'.  |
| -/2/2017  | Supporting export of wood from the Macquarie Wharf.  |
| Other     |  |
| 16/3/2017 | Provided reply on P F Olsen on their Tasmanian Forest Management Plan (FSC certification).   |
| 8/1/2017  | Provided comments on the CFI Plantation Forestry Determination 2016 consultation draft.  |
| 26/9/2016 | Provided reply on the Stakeholder Consultation – RMS Timberlands Australia Pty Ltd. Draft Management Plan - AFS Certification.   |

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Nigel Calvert  
 President  
 Australian Forest Growers, Tasmania

**Moved:** The report be accepted. Moved (Nigel Calvert), Seconded (Greg Unwin) Carried.

## **8. Secretary/Treasurer Report**

Arthur Lyons advised that relevant mater were included in the Presidents report.

Concern expressed that the \$20/branch member contributions to the Branch account may not be credited to the account. It is believed that this is an oversight following an arrangement by the National Board some years ago to temporally defer these credits for a period of 12 months.

**Agreed:** The \$20/member credits to the TAS branch account be reinstated – Arthur Lyons to pursue with National Office.

## **9. Other Business**

### **Browsing Management Workshop (4 October 2017)**

Greg Unwin reported he accepted the position of workshop faciator under the auspices of Australian Forest Growers.

### **Tree Farmer of the Year Award 17/18**

Arthur Lyons tabled a nomination form. Tasmania, unlike other mainland branches, conducts the Award in the national conference ""off" year.

### **National Conference 2018**

Members sought information on the National Conference 2018 and Greg Unwin advised that options were under consideration including a proposal for a joint AFG / IFA conference in ACT and interest by WA in organizing the 2022 Conference. Note : In2020 the ANZIF conference will be held in New Zealand.

### **Tas Branch IFA & AGM's**

On 24 August 2017 the AGM and IFA AGM's were held concurrently before the annual farm forestry seminar. Some members wishes to attend each.

**Agreed:** If this arrangement is proposed for 2018 then the meetings be staggered to enable members to attend each AGM. Arthur Lyons to pursue with IFA TAS Branch (Jim Wilson).

**The Annual General Meeting closed at 5:35pm.**

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Arthur Lyons  
(Secretary/Treasurer)  
25/8/2017