



AGM Minutes
Venue: Northern Wairoa Boating Club
8pm Monday 29th July 2024

Welcome

A welcome was extended to all by Chair D. Nilsson. A special mention and welcome to our guest speaker Asha Chhagan (Plant & Food Research), Jon Carswell (MPI On Farm Support), Keegan Dalbeth (Northland Rural Support Trust) and national representatives Kathryn de Bruin (Hort NZ) and Warwick Simpson (Vegetables NZ).

Guest Speaker

Prior to the AGM Asha Chhagan from Plant & Food Research spoke about Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Asha is an entomologist that's been involved in the development of IPM programs for other crops, and talked about how those worked, and what was needed for development of an IPM program for kumara.

Kathryn de Bruin also gave an update on Horticulture NZ, in particular the collaborative nature of the projects they're involved in, and the 'behind the scenes' type of work that HortNZ does to maintain growers ability to grow.

Present

D Nilsson, J Franklin, W Simpson, K Perreau, A & K de Bruin, K Dalbeth (NRST), M Frood & S Wood, K & J Franklin, L Posthuma, G Suckling, G Lawrence, G & T Nilsson, J Nilsson, D & A Conn, J & D Simpson, B & E Crompton.

Apologies

Reuben Vincent, Tom Duder, Sheldon & Kate Vincent, Sam Panoho, Stuart Walden, Krista Franklin, Dwayne Blitvic, Arjune Dahya (HortNZ), Daniel Sutton (VNZI)

Moved: K Franklin

Seconded: G Suckling

That those apologies are sustained - **Carried**

Obituaries

Melvyn Evans - Ruawai kumara grower and Life Member of NWVGA

Minutes of Previous AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 12 June 2023 were circulated and taken as read.

Moved: B Crompton

Seconded: A de Bruin

That they were a true and accurate record – **Carried**

Matters Arising

Nil

Chairs Report

This was presented by D Nilsson and taken as read.

Moved for adoption by D Nilsson and **seconded** K Perreau - **Carried**

Financial Report

The financial report comprising of the annual report by My Accountants and the 2023/24 Budget was presented by W Simpson, noting the funding provided by MPI for the seed contingency scheme, soil testing and diesel mechanic; funding from RST for the AGM and other events; and the new line in the budget for the Kumara Nutrient Uptake project.

Moved for adoption by W Simpson and **seconded** L Posthuma - **Carried**

Election of Officers

Patron Kerry Perreau **Moved** D Nilsson **2nd** A de Bruin - **Carried**

Chair Doug Nilsson **Moved** K de Bruin **2nd** B Crompton - **Carried**

Vice Chair James Franklin **Moved** W Simpson **2nd** G Suckling - **Carried**

Sec/Treas Warwick Simpson **Moved** D Nilsson **2nd** J Franklin – **Carried**

Committee: A Perreau opted to stand down from Committee. It was **moved** by K Franklin and **seconded** G Suckling that the remainder of the current committee: A de Bruin, S Vincent, R Vincent, L Posthuma, M Frood be retained – **Carried**.

S Panoho **nominated** by W Simpson **2nd** A de Bruin to join committee - **Carried**.

J Nilsson **nominated** by D Nilsson **2nd** A de Bruin to join committee - **Carried**.

Honorarium & Shed Hire

It was **moved** by W Simpson **2nd** L Posthuma that an honorarium for the role of Chair be created, with a value of \$1000/annum - **Carried**

It was **moved** by D Nilsson and **seconded** Janene Franklin that the secretaries honorarium remain at \$2000/annum - **Carried**

It was **moved** by A de Bruin and **seconded** by B Crompton that shed hire remain at \$2000inc/annum – **Carried**.

General Business

A de Bruin discussed the successful importation and quarantine of four sweetpotato varieties from Louisiana State University, noting the helpfulness of MPI staff in keeping the plantlets alive. These varieties are in the process of being grown out and are expected to undergo trials this season.

K de Bruin gave an update on HortNZ, noting the successful levy round; the resignation of CEO Nadine Tunley and recruitment process underway; projects such as A Lighter Touch and the ACC Health & Safety work. K de Bruin is also chair of the Grower Relief Fund, and gave an update on their work providing weekends away for growers severely affected by the North Island Weather Events. The Horticulture Leadership Course was also discussed, and K de Bruin encouraged growers to consider applying.

W Simpson gave an update on Vegetables NZ, noting that he is up for rotation and encouraging growers to vote in the board director elections that close on August 1st; that NZGAP is undergoing changes and there may be a pathway for kumara growers to certify under a group scheme; discussed HESL (Horticulture Executive Services Ltd.); the NES-CVP (National Environmental Standard - Commercial Vegetable Production); the Product Group Collaboration project; the Research Roadshow run by Daniel Sutton; and the work happening to find better solutions to control black field crickets.

A de Bruin thanked MPI for their ongoing support throughout the cyclone recovery, noting the various recovery schemes funded by MPI, and for their assistance in importing tissue culture.

Chair D Nilsson thanked the committee for their work and meeting attendance over the past year; Jon Carswell and MPI for their support; Asha Chhagan for presenting; and the boating club for their hospitality.

Meeting declared closed at 9:05pm