

Northern Wairoa Vegetable Growers Association



AGM Minutes **Venue: Northern Wairoa Boating Club** **7pm Monday 23rd June 2025**

Welcome

A welcome was extended to all by Chair D. Nilsson. A special mention and welcome to Andrew Barber (Agrilink) who facilitated the SVS Tool workshop prior to the AGM, Arjune Dahya (Hort NZ/Growing Change) and David Pilkington (FMG) representing the sponsors of the AGM, and national representatives Kathryn de Bruin (Hort NZ) and Warwick Simpson (Vegetables NZ).

Present

Doug Nilsson, Warwick Simpson, Amy Kay, Michael Woollam, Debbie Adolph, Kerry Perreau, Andre & Kathryn de Bruin, Robert & Lyn Vincent, Reuben Vincent, Michael Frood & Sophie Wood, Luke Posthuma, Josh Nilsson, Jim & Dorothy Simpson, Sam Panoho, Arjune Dahya (Hort NZ).

Apologies

Sheldon & Kate Vincent, Stuart Walden, James & Krista Franklin, Grant & Debbie Suckling, David & Gay Duder

Moved: K Perreau **2nd:** M Frood That those apologies are sustained - **Carried**

Obituaries

Tom Baguley - Kumara Grower
Robyn Evans - Kumara Grower
John Reynard - Kumara Grower
Ross Walden - Kumara Grower
Wayne Steiner - Kumara Grower

A minute silence was observed.

Minutes of Previous AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 29 July 2024 were circulated and taken as read.

Moved: A de Bruin **2nd:** S Panoho That they were a true and accurate record - **Carried**

Matters Arising

Nil

Chairs Report

Presented by D Nilsson and taken as read.

Financial Report

The financial report comprising of the annual report by My Accountants and the 2025/26 Budget was presented by W Simpson, noting the funding provided by Hort NZ/Growing Change for the AGM, the District Association Grant from the Vegetable Chairs Forum; and the new line items for the Murasaki Levy to Louisiana State University. K de Bruin noted that changes may be needed to the annual report to satisfy new Tier 3 Charities Reporting standards.

2025/26 Budget **Moved** for adoption by R Vincent and **2nd L Posthuma - Carried**

Annual Report **Moved** for adoption (pending changes noted by K de Bruin) by K Perreau and **2nd S Panoho - Carried**

Election of Officers

Patron Kerry Perreau **Moved** A de Bruin **2nd L Posthuma - Carried**

Chair Doug Nilsson **Moved** W Simpson **2nd K Perreau - Carried**

Vice Chair James Franklin **Moved** D Nilsson **2nd A de Bruin - Carried**

Sec/Treas Warwick Simpson **Moved** K de Bruin **2nd R Vincent – Carried**

Committee: It was **moved** by S Wood and **2nd R Vincent** that the current committee: A de Bruin, S Vincent, R Vincent, L Posthuma, M Frood, S Panoho, J Nilsson be retained – **Carried**.

Honorarium & Shed Hire

It was **moved** K Perreau **2nd L Posthuma** that the Chair's honorarium and Secretary/Treasurer honorarium remain the same at \$1000 and \$2000 respectively.

It was **moved** A de Bruin **2nd L Posthuma** that shed hire remain at \$2000inc/annum – **Carried**.

General Business

A de Bruin discussed the four sweetpotato varieties from Louisiana State University, noting that the Murasaki tissue culture is released and available to levy payers. The remaining three varieties (Orleans, Bellevue, 18-100/Avoyelles) will be kept for further field trials before release. Shape (fluting) and storage issues were noted with Avoyelles.

The constitution changes tabled (both as required for re-registration under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 and for constitution modernisation) were discussed, and the two remits were approved as below:

- 1) That the Northern Wairoa Vegetable Growers Association (NWVGA) adopts the changes to the Rules/Constitution detailed in the document distributed as part of notification of this AGM, and seeks re-registration with the Registrar of Incorporated Societies under the 2022 Act.

Moved J Nilsson 2nd M Frood Carried

- 2) That the NWVGA committee is empowered to make any changes to the constitution as required by direction from the Registrar of Incorporated Societies as part of re-registration, provided that these changes are ratified by Members at the next Annual General Meeting.

Moved D Adolph 2nd S Wood Carried

D Nilsson thanked K de Bruin for her service on the Hort NZ board, noting that she is standing down at the AGM in August after 6 years on the board. K de Bruin gave an update on HortNZ, noting new CEO Kate Scott; the Horticulture Leadership Course; and encouraged growers to vote in the board elections currently underway.

W Simpson gave an update on Vegetables NZ, noting the work with Hort NZ on the National Environment Standard for Commercial Vegetable Production, and Highly Productive Lands policy that the government recently released for submission; the importance of maintaining an active District Association; and the upcoming board elections to look out for.

A de Bruin highlighted that Sarah Cameron from Hort NZ has worked with growers to prepare a submission on the Kaipara District Council proposed plan.

L Posthuma gave a presentation on the recent USA learning tour, where D Nilsson, A de Bruin and L Posthuma visited farms and universities to learn about growing systems and new varieties. Hosts included:

Scott Stoddard - UCANR, California

Don Labonte - LSU Ag Center, Louisiana

Lorin Harvey - MSU, Mississippi

Jonathan Schultheis - NCSU, North Carolina

Chair D Nilsson thanked the committee for their work and meeting attendance over the past year; Hort NZ, Growing Change and FMG for their sponsorship; and the boating club for their hospitality.

Meeting declared closed at 8:50pm