

New Zealand Farm Forestry Conference, Timaru

Agenda for Cypress Development Group AGM.

Location: Spoheze on the Bay. **Start time:** 10am, Thursday 30th March 2023

1. Welcome by Chairman
2. Apologies
3. Obituaries
4. Minutes previous AGM
5. Matters arising
6. Chairman's report
7. Financial report
8. Election of officers
9. Subscriptions
10. Correspondence
11. General Business

CYPRESS DEVELOPMENT GROUP REPORT – year ending 31st Dec 2022.

During 2022 the CDG continued to build on members enthusiasm for cypresses and included a Gisborne-based weekend event to see & talk cypresses. In addition, several cypress trials were established, numerous superior cypress genotypes were identified & cutting material collected and members contributed to the Special Wood Partnership. This has been complimented by a very good newsletter and articles in the Tree Grower.

The CDG, led by Vaughan Kearns is being increasingly recognised as the champion for the cypresses and as such is continuing to work on the Cypress Development Strategy for the period 2022-2042. The CDG has also continued to develop very good working relationships with Scion, Proseed, Te Uru Rakau and forest companies.

2023 is looking to be another busy year for the CDG with both establishing new trials and continuing to measure past plantings. There will be more than 50,000 plants available for planting this year, so we will be looking for planting sites again. Vaughn will be leading this, so to any member who is interested in these plants, I would encourage you to contact him.

In summary, the CDG is very good heart financially with 125 enthusiastic members, which makes it one of the larger groupings within the NZFFA. It was another busy & productive year for the CDG and one that continues to bode well for the future of the group.

Patrick Milne
Chair

**Minutes of the Cypress Development Group AGM,
NZFFA Annual Conference
10am, Wednesday 24th March 2021. Te Papa, Wellington**

In Attendance.

Patrick Milne – Chairman, Graham Milligan – Secretary, Vaughn Kearns – Treasurer, Alan Wightman, Alistair Malcolm, Bill Studd, Brian Gibson, Dave Gratten, Dean Satchell, Denis Hocking, Diana Kiernan, Don Mead, Dougal McIntosh, Dougal Morrison, Egon Guttke, Fiona Lomax, George Shallcrass, George Thomson, Grace Villamore, Graham Smith, Harriet Palmer, Harry Livesey, Ian Brown, Ian Dewes, Jeremy Collyns, John Millett, Kees Weytmans, Laurie Bennett, Lynley Holloway, Marco Lausberg, Martin Ferner, Martin Jacomb, Martin Weaver, Michael Orchard, Neil Cullen, Nick Ledger, Nick Pollock, Paul Millen, Peter Kiernan, Rachel Rose, Richard Holloway, Richard Thompson, Richie Jacomb, Robin Chesterfield, Rosamond Arthur, Tim Rose, Toby Stovold, Tor Drummond

Apologies: Allan Laurie, Chris Livesey, Gabrielle Walton, Brian Turner, Hamish Randle
Moved Patrick Milne/Seconded Dean Satchell

1. Minutes from previous AGM: Minutes of the 2019 AGM had been circulated.
Moved Graham Milligan /Seconded George Shallcrass

2. Matters arising from the minutes:

Patrick Milne presented an update on Trial Sites. Sawing trial 21 year old unpruned, unthinned trees, milled small log 56% recovery 95% dressing grade. Full report later in *The Tree Grower*.

3. Annual Report: President's report had been circulated.
Moved Patrick Milne /Seconded George Shallcrass

4. Financial Report:

The report had been circulated.
Moved Vaughan Kearns /Seconded Tim Rose

5. Correspondence

None

7. Election of Officers:

Chairman: Patrick Milne

Secretary: Graham Milligan tendered his resignation. Rachel Rose has agreed to be nominated for the position.

Treasurer: Don Tantrum has stood down after many years and Vaughan Kearns has volunteered for the position.

Newsletter: Dean Satchell.

Committee: Gabrielle Walton has tendered her resignation.

Committee - Allan Laurie, Denis Hocking, Vaughan Kearns, Paul Silcock, Gary Fleming, Tim Rose, Angus Gordon. Graham Milligan and Hamish Randle have volunteered to be on the committee.
All of the above were nominated by Patrick Milne/seconded George Shallcrass

Councillor Patrick Milne *Moved Vaughan Kearns /Seconded Graham Milligan*

Signing Authority - Vaughan Kearns and Angus Gordon.

Subscriptions

The subscriptions be increased from \$15 to \$30.

Moved Patrick Milne /Seconded Tim Rose

The advice from Howard Moore (NZFFA Executive) that this increase will have to be from January 2022.

8. CDG weekend: Based in Canterbury, 7-10 May 2021. A vote of thanks was extended to Vaughan Kearns for organising this and previous weekends.

9. General Business:

Discussion on whether the CDG takes control of the *Abies grandis* project. Vaughan Kearns has been working on this with Hamish Levack. Scion are currently collecting seed from the Gwavas stand in Hawkes Bay. Ruapehu Sawmills has under written the cost of the seed collection and intend to get seeds into a nursery to undertake widespread provenance trials within the framework of the CDG
Moved Graham Milligan that the Abies Grandis project be incorporated into the CDG Seconded Jeremy Thompson

It has become clear to Vaughan Kearns that the CDG are the only entity that have the willingness to push Cypress as a forest species. Although data suggests that corporate forests make up a larger percentage of Cypress plantings than private woodlots, they are not interested in a leadership role with this species. Currently, Cypress planting is behind Redwoods and we need to get this reversed by implementing a strategy to make this happen. Richard Thompson led the discussion on how this may be achieved.

Moved Richard Thompson that CDG accept the report and proceed to act on Seconded Vaughan Kearns

Vaughan Kearns sent out a letter to members asking for feedback on whether he should focus energy on the existing Hybrid Cypress Clones (owned by Scion) or should we look to breed our own ones.

The CDG are having a meeting on Saturday night at the Cambridge Hotel on Cambridge Tce , just around from Courtenay Place. This meeting to start around 6.30-7.00pm until 9pm. This meeting is exclusively to discuss the 2019 hybrid cypress trials and also the upcoming 2021 trials. Who will put their hand up to take on a 200 tree (row plot) trial?

Meeting closed 11.15am

Matters arising.

The following discussion points have been raised by Vaughan for discussion.

* I'll be asking the membership to approve the sum of \$5000 to be paid to Ruapehu Sawmills. My company has paid this amount to the NZFFA head office as per their request for donations from the branches to employ a contractor to work on projects related to increasing the relevance and financial health of our organisation. This payment was made of behalf of the CDG, as per our discussion last year.

* Discussion on the establishment of CDG Ltd, seedling and cutting sales business .
How should it be run? What are the aims? Who will be Director? Treasurer?

*Discussion on Abies Grandis trials (FGLT funded project) \$50k *Discussion on Elite Cypress Hybrid assessment (Paparua Road Black Caps)

(FGLT funded project) \$100k *Discussion on Micro Cuttings (TC) Neil Barr 1. hybrid

*Discussion on Scion/CDG Partnership project Cypress Hybrid Trial assessment
(FGLT funded project). \$27k Others?

Report on the meeting held in Gisborne June 11th 2022

After a full day of activity at the recent combined action group weekend. The CDG members held a discussion meeting at the home of Kees and Kay Weytmans.

CDG Members present were: Vaughan Kearns, Angus Gordon, Dougal and Di McIntosh, David and Sue Forsythe, Jeremy Thomson, Neil and Pam Cullen, Paul Silcock, Russell Coker, Gary Fleming, Nick Pollock, Graham and Tess Smith

Visitors present: Rob Webster, Rick Holmes, Sharn Hainsworth, Paul Adams, Marco Lausberg, Toby Stovold, Hamish and Glenys Levack, Dougal Morrison, Stan Braaksma

This was not a formal meeting so no motions were called or passed. The main discussion was around the success to date of the raising and sale of Cypress seedlings and cutting grown clones under the banner of the Cypress Development Group.

This season the CDG is expected to sell over 100,000 seedlings and clones to a variety of growers. To date I've handled the advertising, the contract growing, the sales, invoicing and payment collection. I've also confirmed nursery space for next season so that we can continue the same scale and hopefully expand in line with market driven demand.

I have set up a tax number separate to my own personal one and had the tax account prepared by an accountant and paid the necessary GST from the profit derived from last seasons sales. In the first instance the tax number is operating as a commercial business with me registered as the sole director. What I envisage is for me to step down as the director and a new director or directors be appointed from within CDG.

At this early stage, Dave Forsythe, who has a long history running a substantial dairy farm business, has agreed to be the director of the company, should it proceed. I would then ask to be appointed as an employee of CDG Ltd with remuneration to be aligned to sales. So it would be a commission only position.

What needs to be decided at a formal meeting of the Cypress Development Group is whether or not this proposal is to go ahead and what form the company should take. It could be a small commercial enterprise returning a profit to its shareholders, who would or could be members of CDG as of right. Alternatively, membership could be restricted to people who want to invest in the company by establishing a shareholding and offering shares for purchase. Shares could be offered with a minimum purchase of \$1 to \$1000. This would be my preference as I'd like to see shareholders with some "skin in the game".

As Paul Adams, head of Forest Growers Research commented, this suggests a group of people with serious intent and would encourage forestry professionals to have a close look at our species.

Another option favoured by Dean Satchell is to turn it into a "Not for Profit organisation". This has some tax benefits and would mean all CDG members would be shareholders. All surplus funds from trading would then return to CDG to be invested in "industry Good" activities. This is fairly much how I would like to see the Director/Directors control the commercial company option, with only a small dividend going to shareholders, (enough to pay for refreshments at Annual General Meetings).

So the CDG committee will be asking for feedback on this proposal and the form it could take, before it proceeds to a vote within current members.

Vaughan Kearns