

Minutes of MOFFA 62nd AGM
Outram Church Hall 07 May 2025 at 7pm

Opening: 1904hrs

Welcome by Chairman Peter Thomson

Present: Members being: Peter Thomson (Chair), Murray Harris (Vice Chair), Chris and Jo Sime (Treasurer), Rusty Campbell, Ruth Houghton, Graeme Berry, Graeme Flett, John Flett, George Strong, Neil Cullen and guest speaker Will McBeth (ORC).

Apologies: Parnell Trost, Stan and Marion Rutherford: **acceptance** moved G Flett, **seconded** Ruth Houghton and **Carried**.

Minutes of the previous AGM (61st): acceptance as a true and correct record was Moved by G Strong, seconded R Campbell and these were carried and **approved**.

Matters arising from the minutes: None raised and other matters will come up under general.

Reports:

Chairman's Report: Peter Thomson presented his report and this **was** moved by Chairman Peter, seconded **G Strong and carried**.

Peter presented a full report covering the past year and commented on 4 local foresters that had passed away namely Peter Oliver (City Forests), Cliff Tapper (Southern High Country FFA), John Adam and recently Chaz Forsyth (MOFFA secretary for 19 yrs service). A moments silence with members standing took place. The report also highlighted that local activities had been down compared to past years but the committee had been active. Membership was about the same as past year. Gaining new members was discussed. The plea from the Chairman was to get more members in the committee and Newsletter editor role.

Financial report: Presented by Treasurer Chris Sime. This showed the branch was in a sound financial situation. Report was moved by Chris Sime, seconded by G Strong and **Adopted**.

(The financial report is to be verified, not audited, because its earnings lie below the threshold required for such actions, as Treasurer Chris Sime advised in 2022.)

Financial Summary from the presented accounts to 31st Dec 024.

Income	\$2163.51 (compared to \$3195.05 previous year)
Expenditure	\$2491.45 (compared to \$226.05 previous year)

Excess expenditure over income is -\$327.94 (loss).

Balance of funds ANZ Cheque AC \$4357.70, & ANZ Term Investment \$16953.50

Discussion took place on what we do with surplus money, how best to use it. Graeme Flett suggested that financially assisting a new younger member to the annual conference is of real benefit to all. The other option is to give funds to the Neill Barr foundation.

Election of Officers:

Branch Chair: Peter Thomson, nominated by G Strong, seconded by C Sime and declared elected unopposed.

Branch Vice Chair: M Harris, **Branch secretary:** Murray Harris and **Branch Treasurer:** C Sime were all nominated by R Houghton, seconded by R Campbell, and declared unopposed.

Branch Committee: It was moved that the existing branch committee of Peter Thomson, Murray Harris, Chris Sime and Rusty Campbell be re-elected by N Cullen, seconded by G Strong and **CARRIED**. (The meeting was reminded that it had the power to co-opt.)

Other positions:

Newsletter editor: No nominations at this stage. Committee with work on this matter soon.

The Branch Executive Member: Neil Cullen again agreed to be the Branch Executive member. Nominated by Peter Thomson, seconded by M Harris declared duly elected.

General Business:

The recent passing away of Jim Childerstone from North Otago was mentioned.

Neil Cullen provided updates from local matters and national business:

1. Neil reported back about the recent successful National Conference held at CHCH with some great field days such as a visit to Melrose. The new national President of NZFFA is Peter Davis-Colley.
2. Regarding the update on the revision of the national body constitution. Fiona Lomax is currently working on (Draft to be sent out to members later in the year then the Council can ratify it).
3. MPI-Funding assistance to help upgrade the national web site programme-aim to complete by late June this year.
4. As part of funding from MPI it is important that branch members are aware of the need to forward information on forthcoming events (eg field days, seminars) and the out comes of those events.
5. The situation of Southland FFA considering merging with South Otago FFA. Mid Otago is interested in the process and outcomes.
6. Southern Wood Council-South Otago is keen on Mid Otago contributing to a proportion of the annual subs of \$1500.00 to be a member of SWC including all the benefits that arise. MOFFA Committee will discuss this at next meeting.
7. Next NZFFA Conference. In 2026yr is planned to be held at Cambridge and 2027yr is proposed to be at Balclutha. Suggest that Mid Otago be involved in the planning committee for the 2027yr event.

Closure: there being no further business, the meeting closed at 1942 hrs

Action point(s): 1..Sorting out a Newsletter editor 2...Discuss contributing to the SWC membership via SOFFA. 3..Mid Otago to be involved in the SOFFA conference planning committee .