

## **RGA Deniliquin and Victorian Branch Annual General Meeting**

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Start time: 5:15pm

Apologies: Bruce Simpson, Lachlan Bull, Michael Hughes, John Hand, Dom Garden, Ian Douglas

Previous Minutes: Accepted as correct. Moved: Diane Morona Seconded: Noel Graham

### Branch President's Report - Nick Morona

- Nick apologised for the change of date to combine with Sunrice on the proposed ASX listing
- Well done to those who accessed water and grew a crop

### Elections

<b>Position</b>	<b>Nominees</b>	<b>Elected</b>
President	Nick Morona	Nick Morona
Vice-President	Josh Small	Josh Small
Secretary	Lachlan Bull	Lachlan Bull
Central Exec. Delegate	Lachlan Bull Nick Morona	Lachlan Bull Nick Morona
Central Exec. Alternates	Andrew Hermiston John Bradford Linda Fawns Michael Hughes Josh Small	Andrew Hermiston John Bradford Linda Fawns Michael Hughes Josh Small
Seed Committee	Andrew Hicks	Andrew Hicks
Seed Committee Alternate	Linda Fawns	Linda Fawns

### Victorian Branch Election

<b>Position</b>	<b>Nominees</b>	<b>Elected</b>
President and CE delegate	Martin van der Sluys	Martin van der sluys

### RGA President's Report – Jeremy Morton

- RGA undertaking a review of its constitution
- Proposed R & D levy increase – grower feed-back required
- Sunrice ASX listing proposal: Jeremy urged members to be fully informed prior to a vote in September

## RGA Executive Director's Report – Graham Kruger

- Review of constitution. The purpose of the review is to make sure it is fit for purpose. Feedback from growers is encouraged.
- It is important that RGA policy is generated from members

## Water

Jeremy Morton spoke on the Basin Plan:

- So far 2,106GL have been recovered. 605GL from off-set projects to be implemented by the states. These projects have not been fully developed as yet.
  - There has been a 70GL reduction due to the Northern Basin Review
  - Social and economic neutrality required for the recovery of the 450GL of up-water
  - It is important that these off-set projects succeed
  - EY Report showed that some water, other than from the productive pool, could be recovered.
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- Graham Kruger noted that the Federal Government appreciates RGA suggestions on water reform
  - Noel Grahame moved the following motion: "The Deniliquin Branch opposes the recovery of 450GL from productive use." Seconded: Alan Walsh Motion carried
  - Shelley Scouler moved the following motion: "RGA to work to obtain an extension to the current Water Resource Plan." Seconded: Linda Fawns Motion Carried
  - Jeremy Norton noted that efficiency projects reduced the volume of the productive pool
  - Graham Kruger praised the efforts of the RGA team and noted spoke on the proposed increase to the R&D levy to \$6.00 per ton. Alan Walsh supported the increase and said it was a good investment.
  - Graham also noted that the Leadership Program had attracted \$662,00.00 in funding
  - Jeremy Morton stated RGA gave in-principal support to the Sunrice ASX proposal. RGA would analyse the proposal.
  - Nick Morona thanked sponsors for their on-going support

## Sunrice Report – Tom Howard

- 622,000 ton of paddy delivered so far: 5% yield improvement, 18% average moisture, wholegrain yield is variable, wholegrain yield is slightly lower for medium grain varieties, YRK5 has performed better than last year
- Strong support for the pool
- Looking to expand Growrice funding structure
- Payrice system has been successful
- Sustainable Rice Platform being developed

### RMB Report – John Bradford

A written report was tabled (see attached) with the following highlights:-

- 1) changes to the RMB Board;
- 2) independent governance review of the RMB – logistics and results;
- 3) independent review of the viability of developing the rice industry outside the Murray and Riverina regions – report to the Minister;
- 4) SunRice ASX listing proposal – consideration being undertaken;
- 5) other work – monitoring of SunRice activities, monitoring of exports, annual crop audits and finalization of the RMB Equity scheme
- 6) another vesting review will be conducted in 2019

### R&D Report – Graham Kruger, on behalf of Drew Braithwaite

Highlights:-

- 1) there have been the following changes which affect the R&D Committee, RIRDC relocation to Wagga with changes in personnel and name change to Agri Futures changes to membership and responsibilities of committee members
- 2) The committee is developing the next five-year plan with focus on dry rice and varieties to achieve the target of 1.5 tonne per ML. Any increase in levy will focus on this target
- 3) John Smith has been appointed by Agri Futures to manage the Rice R&D program

### Murray Irrigation Report – Bob Adams and James Kelly

- PIOP 3 project is on schedule
- Main canal assets are being upgraded for a fifty year lifespan
- Ertech is the principal construction contractor. Gates are being supplied by AWMA

### Commonwealth Bank – Angus Swan

- Interest rates and increase in bank lending
- AuD predicted to rise to 83 cents

### H2OX – Craig Feuerherdt

- Indication of an El Nino trend forming
- Temporary water prices rising

## General Business

- Pat Barry complained about hold-ups at shed 16 during harvest deliveries, also the location of the harvest entry gate and weeds growing at the Deniliquin site.
- A motion was moved to award Noel Grahame Honorary Councillor of RGA at the annual conference.  
Moved: Andrew Hermiston   Seconded: Diane Morona   Motion carried

Meeting closed 7.00pm