

Minutes // 2023 RGA Branch Annual General Meeting

Berriquin Branch

Finley Returned Soldiers Club

6th June 2023

Meeting opened: 5:05pm

Chair: Angela Urquhart

Attendees: Rob Massina, Ainsley Massina, Ian Mason, Anna Jewell, John Lacey, Warren Lang, Alision Lang, Peter Burke, Malcolm Roberts, Troy Mauger, Stephen Ball, Keith McAllister, Jerry Lawson, Dean Knight, Danny Pinnuck, Greg Brunt, Melissa De Bortoli, Julian Zanatta, Georgina Pengilley, Christopher Proud, Pip Connolly, Peter Herrmann, Neil Bull, Graeme Kruger,

Apologies:

Laurie Arthur, John Bradford, Jeremy Morton, Leigh Vial, Gordon Ball, Phyllis Ball, Sott Glyde, Scott Jewell, Wil Robertson

Minutes from previous meeting

Moved: Rob Massina Seconded: Ian Mason

Business arising from the minutes

Nil

Branch President: Angela Urquhart

Ms Urquhart provided her Branch Presidents report, speaking about the following:

- Welcomed guests from SunRice, Rice Marketing Board, and Rice Breeding Australia, as well as members and RGA staff.
- Reflected on her CY23 season and congratulated everyone who was able to get rice in, given the unfavourable weather conditions.
- It has been a big year for the RGA. A lot of work has been done, particularly in the area of water policy and vesting.
- Highlighted the important work the RGA is doing through the capacity building project. She attended the Women in Rice forum in Melbourne, which she found very beneficial.

RGA President Peter Herrmann

Mr Herrmann provided his RGA President's report, which spoke about the following:

- Welcomed branch members, staff, and the board of SunRice and the RGA to the meeting and thanked everyone for their participation in the RGA.
- Peter Herrmann gave an update on his rice harvest.

- He thanked previous president Rob Massina (present) for his service while he was RGA President.
- He reiterated the RGA's importance, especially when it comes to vesting, and gave an update on the RGA's work in the past year and what is arising in the next few months.
- A lot of work has been done behind the scenes, particularly in Water Policy. He highlighted the importance of having relationships and maintaining access to politicians and their offices. The RGA is against buybacks and continues to advocate for Growers in this space.
- Encouraged members to speak up if there are issues that concern them. The RGA welcomes their feedback.
- The RGA was successful in securing funding through an open call process with AgriFutures. The funding secured will roll out a series of workshops over the next four years. These programs will focus on – our next generation of leaders and our current leaders, supporting growers with change readiness, and a series of workshops focusing on key industry topics. The reintroduction of the Capacity Building Project, through this project, a Women in Rice Forum has been held. Keep an eye out for workshops focusing on the RD&E strategy, WH&S, Farm Business Finance, Next Generation Leadership program and our Established Leaders program.
- The 2023 Australian Rice Growers' Conference will be held in Griffith. Tickets are now on sale.

Branch Elections

Angela Urquhart declared all positions vacant and handed over to Peter Herrmann to conduct the elections:

<u>President:</u>	Angela Urquhart Nominated: Warren Jennings Seconded: Rob Massina
<u>Vice President:</u>	Stephen Ball Nominated: Angela Urquhart Seconded: Rob Massina
<u>Secretary:</u>	(vacant)
<u>Central Executive:</u>	Angela Urquhart, Annabel Arnold Nominated: Ian Mason Seconded: Stephen Ball
<u>CE Alternate:</u>	Stephen Ball, Warren Lang, Peter Burke, Will Robertson David Marsden, Ted Hatty, Rob Massina Nominated: Ian Mason Seconded: Angela Urquhart
<u>Seed Committee:</u>	Dean Knight (Delegate) David Marsden (alternate) Nominated: Warren Lang Seconded: Anna Jewell

Peter Herrmann handed over to Angela Urquhart as the re-elected Branch President. Angela took the Chair and thanked everyone for re-electing him.

SunRice Update

- Final pool price for CY22 will be released in July, it is currently under board review.
- UK free trade agreement was live last week which will increase the customer pool
- Vesting, SunRice is aligned with the RGA's views
- CEO Rob Gordon is retiring at SunRice AGM, new CEO Paul Serra will be shadowing Rob Gordon for a period of time.
- The 2023 AM will be held at Leeton. AGMs will alternate location in the coming years.

Rice Breeding Australia (RBA)

- RBA was established in June 2022 to transition breeding from NSW DPI. Is a company set up by SunRice, RGA and AgriFutures.
- Dr Chris Proud as RBA's breeder RBA has 6 staff that were part of the previous breeding program and selected based on their skills
- RBA is working on the water productivity target set by industry through the strategic plan
- RBA is focused on cold tolerance to provide yield stability to rice growers as well as lodging, maturity and aerobic adaptation
- RBA is working closely with SunRice to ensure that we are focusing on the correct quality classes for the next 10-15 years
- RBA has established offices and seed processing and storage facility at Brady Way in Leeton. RBA is working at the NSW DPI glasshouse facilities for another 2 years until a new facility can be built that is fit for purpose
- RBA has established 5 year agreement with Knagge family just outside Leeton as a homesite. RBA will be conducting trials across the region to ensure varieties are well adapted
- RBA is working on fast tracking new varieties from the old program, new back crossing program and crossing to ensure delivery to rice growers
- RBA has made some small changes that has seen delivery of varieties from the start of the process reduced by 5 years and doubling of glasshouse capacity with the simple switch of a tray size
- RBA is present at the Rice Management Committee RBA welcomes transparency, questions and the opportunity for growers to come and see what they do. RBA is operating with a commercial mindset and maximizing return to growers on the levy dollars
The new breeding program has been able to double the number of plots in the existing greenhouses.

Rice Marketing Board

- Rob Massina is RGA delegate for RMC
- RMC is platform to test the RD&E activities. AgriFutures research calls, RBA, agronomy, capacity, extension
- Make suggestions on what is important to the industry.
- Referenced the VOLP and how important it is to have levy payer input

Rice Marketing Board (RMB)

- Report on behalf of Scott Glyde
- Board is seeking EOI from consultants on the verification on SunRice's calculations in the vesting report
- Currently finalising the negotiation of the SEEL which should be complete in coming weeks.
- Board is in regular contact with DPI NSW about ABARES report and will be meeting with Ministers.

Voice of the Levy Payer Update

- Highlighted the importance of feedback to the program through the VOLP project.
- Capacity Building Project
- The VOLP Increase in levy. Want grower input in levy funds
- Neil echoed RBA and Rob Massina, welcoming feedback
- Explained the different areas of work under the AgriFutures Rice RD&E Program, Rice Breeding, Rice Extension, Capacity Building Program, Agronomy, and the VOLP.
- Feedback is welcomed in all forms – online, phone calls, meetings, drainage meetings.
- There has been consistent feedback on research objectives.
- Response of the feedback will be shared. It is a closed loop program.

General Business

Discussion about MIL budget shortfall. Members raised concern about the budget and how they are approaching the situation.

MOTION

The Berriquin Branch is seeking clarification from MIL on the long term sustainability of the company in regards to the \$7,000,000 budget shortfall and encourage them to also explore other levers such as cost, volume and price.

Moved: Ian Mason Seconded: Warren Lang

CARRIED

MOTION

Berriquin would like to thank Rob Gordon for all the work he has done for SunRice and the rice industry and wish him well in the future

Moved: Rob Massina Seconded: Warren Lang

CARRIED

Meeting closed: 6:40pm