



HERB FEDERATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
 Held on Sunday 22nd November 2009 at 9am
 Venue: Wanaka Conference Centre.

1. WELCOME:

President Sharon Fredriksson welcomed those present.

Those signing the attendance register were:

Sharon Fredriksson (Kapiti), Chris Tuffnell (Nelson), Heather and Francis Young (Katikati), Wendy Preston (Christchurch), Amanda Paterson (Southland), Mavora White (Southland), Ourania Urquhart (Wellington), Christine Whitaker (Southland), Natasha Rankin (Auckland), Edna Hanafin (Wanaka), Joan Leary (Wanaka), Phyllis Aspinall (Wanaka), Jane Carden (Auckland), Ian Wightman (Manawatu), Marilyn Wightman (Manawatu), Anne Webb (Kapiti), Jeanie White (Nelson), Rona McNeill (Canterbury), Phyl Williams (Canterbury), Monica Bolton (Ashburton), Pat Weir (Ashburton), Anne Seyger (Christchurch), Mollie Woods (Christchurch), Alison Carter (Christchurch), Bunny Rathbone (Otago), Nicola Reynolds (Auckland), Jinnty Murphy (Auckland), Arvensis (Blenheim), Lyn Fuote, Kate Kohler (Upper Clutha), Carlyne Smith (Otago), Elaine Batt (Canterbury), Norma Savage (Upper Clutha), June Hyde (Wanaka), Margaret Stenhouse (Upper Clutha), Helga Westerink (Christchurch), Pamela Wright (Auckland), Ruby Hall (Upper Clutha), Heather Craw (Canterbury), Gill Coldham (Auckland), Lyn Brown (Auckland), Miriam Eves (Auckland), Helen Ford (Auckland), Barbara Cuttance (Tauranga), Linda Carter (Katikati), Lorraine Gladstone (Otago), Liz Petrie (Otago), Tash Hurst (Otago), Pauline Fraser (Otago), Julia Hastings (Katikati), Anne Moulin (Christchurch), Kathleen Ellis (Christchurch), Jim Carter (Katikati), Margaret Hunt (Wanaka), Nola Henderson (Wanaka), Heather Halliday (Upper Clutha), Glenis Thomas (Otago).

2. APOLOGIES:

Bob and Jane Lawson, Gilli Sutton, Alison Croskery, May Brown, Agnes Jones, Diana More, Rae Nicholls, Loraine Therstensen, Katrine Pop, Diane Edwards, Carolyn Press McKenzie, Donna Lee, Joanna Keith, Anne Rodgers, Karina Hilterman, Ann Fechney, Linda Boyd, Betty Snell.

That the apologies be accepted. Linda Carter/Arvenis. Carried.

3. MINUTES:

The minutes of the 2008 AGM (30/11/08) had been circulated to members in the Annual Report 2009. There were no amendments to the minutes.

That the minutes be accepted as a correct record. Marilyn Wightman/Chris Tuffnell. Carried.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Sharon Fredriksson reported on the success of Herb Awareness Week in 2009. She noted that Francis Young would be stepping down from his role as Secretariat to the Federation after six years and commented on the excellent work he had done for the Federation over this time. She also proposed a vote of thanks to Heather and Francis Young for their continuing work in producing the Federation's quarterly newsletter Herbnews and Heather for her continuing work as archivist for the Federation. Sharon reported that she had attended an Auckland meeting of Herbal Health - a group opposing over-regulation of herbs. She had also attended Upper Hutt Herb Society's August meeting. Sharon also noted the work done by Jim Carter in further developing the Federation's website and acknowledged the work of the Canterbury Herb Society in managing the Herb Library for use of Federation members. The Upper Clutha Herb Society was congratulated on the planning and organisation that had gone into such a successful and enjoyable Conference.

That the President's report be received. Sharon Fredriksson/Jim Carter. Carried.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT:

a. Financial report

Francis Young presented the Treasurer's Report, drawing attention of members to the Annual Report 2009 containing the Financial Report (circulated to members prior to the AGM). He noted that there had been a small surplus for the year, made possible by the National Executive keeping costs down through use of teleconferencing and email communication in place of face to face meetings.

That the financial report be received. Francis Young/Rona McNeill. Carried.

b. Budget for 2009/11 biennium

The proposed budget for 2009/11 had been circulated (in the Annual Report, 2009) to members prior to the meeting. The budget showed a deficit of \$2,600 for the biennium. Francis noted that the Federation is receiving less interest than previously.

That the budget be approved. Francis Young/Rae Henderson. Carried.

7. HERBNEWS REPORT

Heather Young reported that there were four issues per year. She thanked contributors and Herb Societies for their newsletters. Currently Herbnews is being done "in house", and this will continue for 2009/11 biennium. Linda Carter, with the help of Rona McNeill, is developing an index of all Herbnews publications over the past ten years which will eventually be published in Herbnews.

8. SEEDBANK REPORT

Bunny Rathbone continues to run the seed bank with the assistance of the Otago Herb Society.

A List of seeds available from the seedbank and arrangements for ordering seed was published in the Herbnews, Volume 23, No 3. Spring 2009.

Bunny noted that there are only five contributors to the seedbank and that these contributors are mainly from Dunedin. There is need for more contributors from other parts of New Zealand. Bunny outlined the seeds currently

required by the seed bank, stressing that no hybrid seeds should be sent. The list of "seeds wanted" is to be listed on the Federation website.

Bunny also asked for feedback on results from those ordering seed from the bank.

A vote of thanks was proposed to Bunny and the Otago Herb Society.

9. LIBRARY REPORT

Heather Crow presented the library report.

The library, containing over 1000 books, is located at the Avic Hill Centre in Christchurch and is coordinated by Anne Seyger and Heather Crow with the support of the Canterbury Herb Society. Heather reported that Federation members visiting Christchurch as wishing to view and use the library could contact her. She also advised that books could be ordered by contacting Anne or Heather and posted out.

10. SECRETARIAT REPORT

Francis Young presented the membership report.

There are currently 121 individual members

26 Family members

18 member Herb Societies

9 Honorary members

He noted that Manawatu Herb Society has been disbanded recently.

Membership subscriptions have been sent out recently and currently approx two thirds of members have renewed their subscriptions. A reminder re payment of subscriptions will be sent out in the next Herbnews.

It was noted that some new individual members had been gained via the Federation's website.

11. HERB AWARENESS WEEK 2010

Sharon Fredriksson reported that the 2010 theme of wild herbs fits with the current recession.

She noted that the information packs for Herb Awareness Week 2010 (March 1 -8) had been send out recently to members to give members time to plan local events. She suggested members should try to gain publicity via local radio.

12. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President:

Sharon Fredriksson declined nomination for a further term.

Chris Tuffnell was elected as President.

Sharon Fredriksson/Francis Young. Carried.

Secretary:

Heather Halliday was elected as Secretary. Chris

Tuffnell/Sharon Fredriksson. Carried.

Treasurer:

There were no nominations.

Committee members:

After no nominations were received, Jinnty Murphy and Nicola Reynolds agreed to serve as Committee members for the 2009/11 biennium.

13. SECRETARIAT

Francis Young outlined the role of Secretariat Manager, noting that this had also been circulated to members with the Annual Report 2009. He advised that it required approximately 60 hours per year of manager time, and that the busy months were Sept/Oct/Nov.

Ian Wightman agreed to appointment.

Marilyn Wightman/Rona McNeill. Carried.

14. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

As the Secretariat would now be moving to Fielding it was agreed:

That the Executive Committee select an Auditor from the Manawatu prior to the next annual audit.

Francis Young/Ian Wightman. Carried.

15. NOMINATION OF LIFE MEMBER.

Marilyn Wightman was nominated for Life Membership of the Herb Federation of New Zealand.

"Marilyn has been a long time member of the HFNZ and a founding member of the Manawatu Herb Society. She, with husband Ian, own Fragrant Garden, one of the few remaining mail order nurseries specialising in herbs. Marilyn is a past President of the Federation.

She regularly participates at Conference and has given several workshops over the years, as well as bringing herb plants for delegates to buy.

In recent years she has become a regular contributor to Herbnews and Fragrant Garden regularly advertises in the magazine. She also writes a herb column for Weekend Gardener, which is a high profile assignment.

Marilyn has been a stalwart of the Manawatu Herb Society and has held most offices there. She has worked hard to keep the Society alive during tough times in recent years.

Marilyn is a good example of active membership, and is willing to share her immense knowledge about herbs.

She is considered to be a worthy candidate for the Federation's highest honor."

(From Annual Report, 2009, circulated to members)

That Marilyn Wightman be conferred a Life Member of the Herb Federation of New Zealand.

Rae Nicholls/ Heather and Francis Young. Carried.

16. GENERAL BUSINESS

(1) A remit from the Wairarapa Herb Society had been circulated to members on 24/10/09 for consideration.

"That the AGM be held early in October each year".

Sharon Fredriksson read out the rationale for the remit provided by Wairarapa Herb Society:

November is a very busy time for most of us. Business people are caught up in the Christmas rush and all of us seem to be caught up in getting ready for the holiday period. It is also quite a financial hurdle, particularly with Christmas in the offing.

We feel that October would be a better time for a Conference.

It was once suggested that the gardens would not be at their best during October, but we feel we go to Conference for the learning, sharing of ideas and fellowship with other Herbies, not to look at gardens.

There was considerable discussion. Points raised were:

- * Would be difficult to get Annual Report out in time
- * Would need to change Constitution 11(a)

- * October has Labour Weekend and some school holidays in it
- * Pay for travel months in advance therefore no clash with Christmas finance
- * Attendance has improved since changing to November
- * No matter what month - can't suit everybody
- * farming busy times is different throughout country
- * want to look at gardens - herbs need to be available.

Remit put to vote: 7 for/39 Against. REMIT LOST.

(2) FUTURE OF DITTANY

Rona McNeill presented a report on Dittany.

The publication was started nearly thirty years ago as the Annual Journal of Herb Societies, prior to the formation of the Herb Federation.

Canterbury Herb Society has coordinated its production over the years.

She advised that the publication was no longer viable

- * decreasing number of Herb Societies
- * HFNZ Herbnews quarterly now producing similar articles
- * difficulty getting contributors and new contributors
- * sales do not warrant the time and expense to produce
- * a large percent of the publication are 'give-aways'
- * Dittany no longer one of the few sources of herb information - now gardening columns, internet etc.
- * readers expect gloss/colour- but this is beyond volunteer ability

Rona thanked all those who had been contributors over the years and advised that there would be one final publication of Dittany - the 30th. Ourania Urquhart and Barbara Cuttance agreed to co-edit the final edition aiming for publication by the end of October 2010.

A number of speakers from the floor spoke of the important role Dittany had played.

Rona McNeill presented a Motion to wind up Dittany after production of the 30th Edition. Seconded Anne Webb. Carried.

17. CONFERENCE 2011

Conference 2011 will be hosted by herb societies and members in the Tauranga area.