



NEW ZEALAND GROUNDSREAD FERTILISERS' ASSOCIATION INC

Presidents report on the 2016 NZGFA Conference

I wish to thank the Nelson Marlborough Branch organizing committee for hosting the 60th NZGFA Annual Conference, themed '60 Years and Growing'. To sponsors and delegates, a heartfelt thank you. Your support and attendance make these conferences what they are today.

The Conference had a great range of speakers and issues relevant to the Groundspreading industry. On display outside was a wide range of trucks, bins and trailers. Inside displays consisted of GPS systems and providers, load scales, tyre and wheel suppliers, fuel and oil suppliers, CPI tyre inflation, auto greasing systems, industrial seat belt providers and much more. The Conference provided the opportunity to renew friendships, make new ones, learn and above all relax and have fun.

The AGM was held on Monday morning. With the election of office bearers, changes were as follows: Stu Pinny retired as Vice President, along with Rod Campbell as Taranaki Councilor. Thank you gentlemen for your valued contribution to the Association. These roles were filled by Simon Pedersen (Vice President) and Ross Corlett (Taranaki councilor). Welcome and thank you also.

It is pleasing to congratulate two new life members, Keith Lindup a national Past President from Nelson/Marlborough branch and Kevin Geddes long standing E.O for NZGFA. Thank you both for your valued contribution to NZGFA. John O'Fee was presented with a Certificate of Recognition for 60 years in NZGFA. John attended the first conference in 1956, the same year as NZGFA was established.

On Tuesday night was the Cable Price sponsored fancy dress fun night, the theme was 1960's party. Many people dressed for the occasion as Jim Laird's photos will attest. A good night was had by all, marred by the disrespectful behavior of the MC later in the evening for which I apologise. My thanks to Jim Laird for his photographer duties. The ladies were well catered for with their programme.

In summary I took the following from conference

- Health and safety is paramount, make sure you have written/traceable policies and procedures in place.
- Employment agreements also need to be written and clearly state your drug and alcohol policy. Ensure that you have outlined the consequences of any breach. Graeme Smith from the Drug

Detection Agency in Waikato will review your drug and alcohol policy free of charge if you were at the Conference. A fine gesture, thank you Graeme.

- National subscriptions increased by 10% effective from 1-04-2016
- Members want more from the Association. National has negotiated a new service agreement with Federated Farmers (new fee is to be \$45760) with the view to redevelop the NZGFA website; improve communication through monthly newsletters; branding awareness (is it time to update our logo?) and commercial partnership deals.
- -N3 will be continued with but the Association will make comparisons with other discount cards.
- -More sponsorship
- -Improve our magazine through more advertising and more editorial material from our industry.
- -Increase/strengthen membership
- -Professional development courses
- -Obtain the number of spreaders and spreading companies in New Zealand along with vehicle configurations and swept path details where possible.
- Membership Declaration - it would be helpful if members clearly provided the actual number of spreading units they have to enable National to lobby more effectively industry.

Further conference reports will appear in the next issue of the Groundspread Magazine. Once again, thanks to one and all for a great conference and we all look forward to a good spreading season ahead.

Regards to all,

Brent Scully

President

New Zealand Groundspread Fertilisers' Association Inc

Groundspread



C/- New Zealand Post, Limehills, Southland 9660

Telephone : 03 236 0759 | Cell : 027 432 8988 | Fax : 03 236 9759

Email : brent@scullystransport.co.nz | www.groundspreaders.co.nz

