

ECCO COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7 2011

Present: Neil Jones, Colin Foster, Brian Phillips, Matthew Jeffrey, Tony Smith, Jenny Smith, Nick King, Peter West, Phil Stevenson

Membership of Climate Action Network Australia: Moved Tony Smith, seconded Neil Jones that ECCO renew its membership to CANA. Carried.

Action on Parks:

Draft submissions on all parks supported by ECCO to be submitted to committee members for comment. Orange Field Nats. will send their submission on the Ploughman's Valley Wetlands to Neil by Sunday, February 13.

- ECCO petition re: 73 Kearney's Drive to recommend that the residents be consulted as to where they would like their park located.
- ECCO to get a copy of Daroo's submission re: park on Kearney's Drive and Olympic Way before supporting it.
- Tony to complete the ECCO general submission to Council on parks.
- ECCO to organise a rally in Robertson Park this coming Thursday, February 10 at 6pm. Neil to organise media coverage. Park advocates, ECCO membership to be contacted. Participants encouraged to bring banners.

Botanic Gardens Triangle:

Tony has contacted the president of the Friends of the Botanic Gardens who informed him that their official position is not to oppose the current classification of this site, because of the current moratorium on development agreed to by Council. ECCO to adopt a similar position at least until there becomes available a plan for the whole Botanic Gardens precinct.

Bloomfield Bushland: Yvette has compiled a draft submission for the Bloomfield Bushland which ECCO has used as a template for their submission for this site.

Ploughman's Valley: A public meeting to be held on Tuesday, February 8, commencing 7pm at Wentworth Golf Club concerning ECCO's application to reclassify the Ploughman's Valley wetlands to prevent zoning for residential land. Those who attend will be encouraged to sign a petition to this effect and also will be encouraged to write submissions opposing the current classification. ECCO to write a submission re: Ploughman's Valley.

Clean up Australia Day: Peter reports that ECCO has registered 5 sites for Clean up Australia Day. Information concerning this event will be circulated closer to the date. Peter will continue to liaise with the Tidy Towns committee concerning this event.

Natural Burials: Brian reports that he has received a reply from the Crown Cemeteries advisory Committee stating the CCAC "strongly supports the establishment of natural burial grounds within crown cemeteries and believes they are an appropriate development within cemeteries generally." Brian to forward a copy of this letter to Mark Hodges at Orange city Council in his ongoing communication with Council on this issue.

Purchase of display board: ECCO has purchased a display board for use at expos, displays etc.

Constructed Wetlands: Some ECCO members have expressed concern about the constructed wetlands which have been under construction along Ploughman's Creek, in the watercourse at Seymour Park and on the watercourse behind Brooklands Estate. ECCO will invite the designers of the above wetlands to our next public meeting, which will take place on February 23 to explain the design, the method of construction and the ongoing functioning of the wetlands.

Macquarie Pipeline: ECCO will be planning a future meeting on the Macquarie pipeline to enable members of the public to gain a greater understanding of the issues surrounding this controversial proposal.

Earth Hour: It was agreed that ECCO promotes Earth Hour through a picnic under that stars on Mount Lindsey as was arranged last year. Nick to liaise with Council to book the park. More information on this event will be forthcoming.

100% renewable conference: Nick and Brian to attend the 100% renewable energy conference in Port Macquarie on Saturday and Sunday, 12th and 13th of February.

Double glazing alternative at the Orange Civic Centre: Orange City Council has installed a type of window insulation which is cheaper to purchase and install than traditional double glazing. Brian to follow up with Council staff and report on its effectiveness. If effective, this method has implications for domestic use.

Experience Orange Expo: To be held Sunday, February 27. ECCO will have a stall at this event, sharing it with the Daroo Urban Landcare group. ECCO members who are available to attend this stall for a period of time during the day, please contact Nick on 63 62 6827, or email nking126@gmail.com

Important dates:

- Next ECCO committee meeting Monday, March 14. All welcome.
- Next ECCO Public meeting: Wednesday, February 23
- Experience Orange Expo. Sunday February 27
- Orange Community Garden working bee Saturday, February 19
- Glenroi Heights School Kitchen Garden program. Working bee from 1.45 to 3.00pm each Friday at Glenroi Heights Public School. Maxwell Avenue.
- Clean Up Australia Day Sunday, March 6 .
- Earth Hour Picnic under the stars, Saturday March 26

Nick King Secretary