

Minutes of ECCO Committee Meeting April 11, 2011

Present: Cheryl Engsmeyer, Beth Alexander-Fisher, Tony Smith, Phil Stevenson, Jenny Smith, Stephen Nugent, Nick King

Apologies: Colin Foster, Susan Sanders, Peter West, Neil Jones, Brian Phillips

In the absence of President Neil Jones, Stephen Nugent agreed to chair the meeting.

Agenda Items:

- **Orange City Council’s retrofit of the Civic Centre Windows:** Brian has contacted Michael Thorpe from Orange City Council, who has agreed to organise a tour of the retrofitted windows at a convenient time. Brian to be asked to contact Michael to arrange a suitable time for interested members and friends to have a tour of the retrofitted windows. A suggested time was a Wednesday at 5pm.
- **Brian Phillips to Climate Action Network Australia (CANA) conference:** Brian has attended the above conference in Melbourne, where he will be attending lectures and workshops on various aspects of climate change.
- **Earth First:**
A volunteer is still required to take up the challenge of co-ordinating the Earth First column in Saturday’s Central Western Daily. So far a broad appeal to the membership been unsuccessful, so it was agreed that a more personal approach to individual members be adopted. Jenny Smith has agreed to do this. Nick King has volunteered to take responsibility for this coming Saturday’s Earth First contribution. Next Saturday’s contribution to be about renewable energy in preparation for the ECCO public meeting on the subject. Brian to be approached to report on the CANA conference for a subsequent article.
- **Meeting with Andrew Gee:**
Tony Smith and Neil Jones met with Andrew Gee, newly elected member for Orange. See attached Tony’s report on the meeting. Tony reports that Andrew Gee was most receptive and approachable. ECCO looks forward to further meetings with Andrew.
- **ECCO April public meeting:**
The ECCO general meeting set for April will be a public meeting about renewable energy. Presenters will be Mr. Grant Christopherson, manager of the Central Tablelands Renewable Energy Precinct, and Mr. Johnathon Upson from Infagen Energy which is developing the Flyer’s Creek windfarm. Nick to organise publicity for this meeting. Tony to organise refreshments afterwards.

- 100% renewable energy survey:**
 Brian has approached the University with survey forms and has received a favourable response from his contact. Brian has also contacted other business organisations such as Viatek to ask them to distribute forms. Nick and Brian to continue to distribute forms to targeted businesses etc. The survey form to be emailed to the membership with telephone follow up. The aim is to have 200 responses by April 28. Any member who would like to assist Nick with doorknocking the survey contact him on 63 62 6827, or email nking126@gmail.com.
- Strategies to engage a younger membership:**
 Suggestions include using electronic media more effectively, contacting schools, organising more hands on environmental events, meeting with our few young contacts and discussing what they want, Contacting TAFE, especially in the greenskills area. advertise the coming public meeting on renewable energy to local High Schools. Any members who have ideas about how to engage young people on environmental issues please contact us.
- ECCO Environmental Awards:**
 Nominations have been received from Wishart's Automotive Works and Pete's Car Wash. Tony to approach other Businesses and organisations concerning application for the awards. Nominations to be discussed at the May committee meeting.
- ECCO's Involvement in The Rotary Sustainability Expo Sept 10-18.**
 Currently ECCO's involvement is to assist Rotary with the organisation of the CSIRO schools' programme, the schools cooking competition, providing a stall at the expo and organising the house and garden tour.
- Update of information concerning the proposed parks reclassification:**
 Nick contacted Alan Renike from Orange City Council who said that the report of the independent chair of the public hearing on the parks issue is due on May 2. It is anticipated that decisions concerning the reclassification of the relevant parks will be made at a Council meeting on May 16.

Upcoming ECCO events: ECCO public meeting 7.30, April 27 at the ELF, Orange Showground. Topic: renewable energy. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Please assist by filling out the accompanying survey form, printing copies and surveying your friends, neighbours, perfect strangers and relatives. Return the form either electronically or to our ECCO post box, PO 1582.

Nick King Secretary

