

MINUTES OF ECCO COMMITTEE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2011

Present: Peter West, Tony Smith, Col. Foster, Brian Phillips, Neil Jones, Nick King

Apologies: Susan Sanders, Yvette Black, Jenny Smith, Stephen Nugent

Minutes of August committee meeting: Moved and seconded that the minutes of the August committee meeting be accepted. Carried.

Business arising:

Ploughman's Valley Wetlands: A meeting was held at Wentworth Golf Club, which resulted in the establishment of a working group, the purpose of which is to provide support for Orange City Council with the development of the Ploughman's Valley Wetlands. The next meeting to be held on Tuesday, September 13 at 1.30 pm at the Ploughman's Valley wetlands, involving a tour of the site. All welcome.

Welcome back to the snipe: A welcome back to the snipe picnic was held on Sunday September 4. It was good to see that there were a small group of snipe observed on the occasion.

Bloomfield Bushland: Peter West has written a submission on behalf of ECCO expressing concern about proposed development of a section of the Bloomfield Bushland site. To this date his submission has not been acknowledged. Peter to follow this up.

Natural Burials: Brian Phillips has received correspondence from Orange City Council that the design for the burial ground has commenced, tenders have been called and work will commence on the project before the end of 2011.

Bathurst Orange Dubbo Sustainability Action Plan: Brian has had the opportunity to address Orange City Council to express concerns about the implementation of the above plan and the lack of feedback concerning the initiatives implemented by Council, especially the successful retrofit of the windows of the Civic Centre. ECCO to continue to monitor the progress of the plan.

Cowra Climate Action Conference: Attended by Brian, who is to receive power points and other information from the conference. Brian will pass this information on to members when it becomes available.

ECCO environment awards: Bill Josh, coordinator of Parks Alive was presented with an ECCO Environmental award at the Sustainability Week launch on Saturday, September 10.

General business:

Random removal of roadside trees around Borenore: ECCO member Jann Porges has submitted a report describing tree removal which appears to be random and unnecessary. Nick to contact Jann to organise an inspection of the site. ECCO to contact the relevant personnel from Cabonne to provide answers to the questions raised by Jann.

ECCO Template: ECCO has a template which incorporates the ECCO logo, designed by Stephen Nugent in 2009 and is used on all ECCO official correspondence. Nick and Peter to meet to organise templates to facilitate emailing of ECCO information.

Sustainable Living Expo: ECCO to have a stall at the Sustainability Week Expo to be held at the Orange Ex-Services Club on Thursday, September 15 from 3.30-7.30pm. ECCO members have been rostered on to set up the expo and to man (person?) the stall for the time indicated.

Members note: the distributor of the Magnetite window retrofit will be available at the expo to provide information to those who are interested.

Superb parrot day: ECCO to approach the Orange Field Naturalists about the organization of a day, tentatively Sunday November 20, to raise community awareness of the superb parrot and the necessity to preserve its environment. Tony to talk to the Orange Field Naturalists.

Bowen Public School Cultural Garden: ECCO to donate \$100.00 towards the garden. Nick to contact Tracey Graves the coordinator of the project to invite her to talk to a future ECCO general meeting.

ECCO Annual General Meeting: To be conducted in the upstairs function room at the Park View Hotel on Wednesday, September 21, commencing 7.30. Tony to organise catering. Mr. Tony Mc Burnie from Integrated Designs will be our guest speaker. Members are urged to attend.

Current financial position: Treasurer Colin Foster reports that ECCO's current balance is \$1789.30, with some outstanding expenditure of approximately \$300.00.

Future ECCO general meetings: Rod Holcombe to address the ECCO October general meeting on techniques of bush regeneration and the development of wetlands and public spaces. Rod has extensive experience in this area, having worked on many such projects.

Coal seam gas extraction: Jeremy Buckingham to be approached for a future meeting on the issue of coal seam gas extraction.

Refunds on bottles: Letter to Andrew Gee about the possibility of his government introducing a refund scheme for bottles with the possibility of having a future public meeting on the issue. Tony to draft a letter to Andrew Gee.

Movie: The Economics of Happiness: To be reviewed by Neil with consideration for it to become a future ECCO fundraiser.

ECCO membership: Membership renewals to be sent out after the AGM. Membership application will be accompanied by a letter from Neil Jones plus the president's report.

Community Radio: There is a possibility that ECCO could be offered the opportunity to host a fortnightly one hour community radio program. This is a great opportunity to get the ECCO message across. Interested ECCO members to contact Nick.

The naming of Froglet Park: Correspondence received from Colin Foster, President of the Daroo Orange Urban Landcare Group concerning the official naming of Froglet Park, previously an unnamed park in Kearney's Drive. ECCO to support.

Ronnie Kahn workshop: Tony Smith to contact Jane Arnott , workshop coordinator concerning any subsequent action arising from the Ronnie Kahn workshop, which concerned Ronnie's creation of Oz Harvest and the saving of food from waste disposal.

DPI Land Concept Plan: ECCO has received correspondence stating that the concept plan for the above land has been approved. It is now up to the Minister to decide whether to approve the plan. ECCO to seek a meeting with Andrew Gee on this issue. Tony to draft a letter to Andrew Gee .

Renewable energy: Brian Phillips tabled information that private solar panel installation in Australia has produced enough electricity to replace on coal fired power station the size of Wallerawang.

Brian also reports that Pacific Pyrolysis, a producer of biochar and the subject of a Landcare excursion organised by Brian last year, has obtained a listing on the stock exchange. Hopefully one of many future successful green investments.

Next ECCO committee meeting: Monday October 10 at 55 Hill Street, commencing 7.30. All welcome.

Next ECCO general meeting: The ECCO Annual General Meeting. Wednesday, September 21 at the function room at the Park View Hotel, commencing 7.30.

Nick King Secretary Ph: 63 62 6827 email: ecco.orange@gmail.com