

ECCO COMMITTEE MEETING JUNE 13, 2011

Present: Jenny Smith, Tony Smith, Yvette Black, Peter West, Colin Foster, Neil Jones, Nick King, Brian Phillips, Stephen Nugent

Apologies: Meg. Bannigan, Susan Sanders

General business:

Natural Burials update: Brian Phillips, Nick King and Tony Smith met with Orange City Council representative Mark Hodges on Friday, June 10 to discuss the details of the establishment of a natural burial ground within the precinct of the Orange cemetery. Mark has funding to prepare a plan for the establishment of the abovementioned facility. Shoalhaven Council has already prepared a set of conditions for the establishment of a natural burial ground, which Mark will send to Brian for ECCO's perusal and comment. Negotiations will continue, the objective of which will be for ECCO to have input into a policy governing natural burials at Orange Cemetery, and also input into the design of the burial ground.

Ongoing support for Orange's parks: Representatives of Orange Residents for Open Space were not available to meet with ECCO at this committee meeting. Peter West and Neil Jones will contact them, to arrange their attendance at a future ECCO meeting.

The meeting agreed that there was a need to identify and make contact with those individuals who acted as advocates for their local park, so that they can be involved in gathering ongoing support for their park. Neil and Nick to meet to finalise a list of contact people for each park.

Clean up Day In Glenroi This will take place on Sunday, June 19 commencing at 10 am and finishing with a barbecue at 1pm. Those who wish to participate are asked to assemble at the above time in the car park at the Community Centre in Garema Road, Glenroi. Participants are asked to bring large brooms if they have them and to wear gloves as there is a large amount of glass that needs cleaning up in the designated area.

This cleanup has the support of the Orange City Council, which will provide a free barbecue for participants.

Jenny Smith has volunteered to provide security at the Community Centre and will assist with directions to the cleanup site.

Neil to contact social housing groups to enlist support and participation in the cleanup. Orange city scouts and the Orange Hockey Association have also been invited to become involved. A message has been sent to the Glenroi Heights school community about the cleanup day.

Sue Clarke from Netwaste to address the students of Glenroi school about litter on Friday 17th June

Peter West to provide statistics concerning cleanup days for the media.

All ECCO members are urged to come along and give support to this very worthy community activity, for the whole time or part thereof.

Ploughman's Valley Wetland Group:

ECCO to facilitate a public meeting to seek the endorsement of local residents to form a group to support the ongoing development of Ploughman's Valley wetlands. Tony Smith to draft a letter to the Orange City Council General Manager to seek a meeting with council and relevant community groups and individuals to formulate a management plan for Ploughman's valley wetlands.

Ploughman's valley to be the site of this year's National Tree Day planting. A good time to start discussions. Local residents to be informed through the media and through letter box drops about the tree planting and the formation of a Ploughman's Valley support group.

100% renewable energy update: Orange climate Action Now had agreed to provide 200 responses to the national survey on renewable energy, which they have done. There are still some responses to be collected . When all responses are in the results will be communicated to the membership, both nationally and for Orange.

Orange is working with the Bathurst Community Climate Action Network. Together representatives of both organisations will meet with John Cobb on June 24 to discuss the results of the survey.

Many thanks to Brian Phillips who has approached most major employers in Orange to obtain survey responses from their workforce. Also many thanks to members who completed survey forms.

Orange Showground: Correspondence has been forwarded from ECCO to the general manager of Orange City Council confirming ECCO's position as stated in its submission of 2009, wherein ECCO expressed support for the Orange Showground Action Group in its wish for the Orange Showground to remain on its present site, and also ECCO's opposition to the selloff of public open space such as the Orange Showground for short term commercial gain.

Sustainability Week update: ECCO to organise the sustainability week. house and garden tour. Need to compile a list of possible candidates for the tour. Committee to have a list for the next ECCO committee meeting. Brian Phillips to approach Mick Fabar for possible candidates.

ECCO Annual General Meeting: It was agreed by the committee that the ECCO Annual General Meeting should take place on Wednesday September 21.

National Tree Day July 31. The venue for this year's National Tree Day will be the Ploughman's valley Cargo Road constructed wetlands. ECCO members are urged to support this very important date on the environmental calendar.

The movie the Futuremakers: This movie is about people who have made ground breaking efforts to live more sustainably and are an example to us all. Nick to follow up with the distributors the possibility of bringing the film to Orange.

ECCO Environment awards: The aim for the ECCO winter environment awards is for them to be ready for Sustainability week. The next awards to be finalised by the July committee meeting.

Bloomfield Bushland: Any future action on the Bloomfield bushland has been placed on hold pending the finalization of its Local Environment plan status, which could be challenged. The Bloomfield Bushland Action Group will continue to meet, but, as with the parks, local adjoining stakeholders need to become involved.

Glenroi School Kitchen Garden: Last Friday with the assistance of members of ECCO there was a successful planting of winter vegetables done by the students of Glenroi Heights Primary School. More planting will be done this Friday, so if available ECCO members are urged to get involved in this project. Planting starts at 1.45 this Friday June 10 , and concludes at 3pm.

Next ECCO General Meeting: Will be a public meeting to be held at the Environmental Learning Centre on Wednesday June 22, commencing 7.30pm. The topic will be Parks and Open space-the Future. Neil Jones to approach Bill Josh from the Parks Alive programme to address the meeting. There will be refreshments afterwards.

Next ECCO Committee meeting: To be held on Monday, July 11.

Nick King Secretary