



environmentally concerned citizens of orange
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ECCO COMMITTEE MEETING MARCH 14, 2011

Present: Jenny Smith, Susan Sanders, Phil Stephenson, Brian Phillips, Tony Smith, Neil Jones, Nick King, Peter West

Apologies: Colin Foster, Stephen Nugent

General Business:

Next ECCO public meeting: To be held on Wednesday March 23, 2011 at the Orange Environmental Learning Facility. Topic for discussion: The Macquarie Pipeline. Tony Smith to contact Orange City Council’s chief engineer, Chris Devitt and Tony Perry, from Central Tablelands Water, to invite them to address the meeting on this topic. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Tony to be reimbursed for expenses incurred for the procurement and organisation of refreshments for this meeting.

Earth Hour Organisation: It has been previously agreed that ECCO organise a picnic under the stars at Rotary park on Mount Lindsay, on the evening of Saturday, March 26 , from 7.30 to 9.30 pm. Permission from council to stage this event has been sought, and advertising for the event has been organised through print and radio media. Many thanks to the Orange Scouts who have agreed to distribute flyers advertising the picnic for display in shops in the Orange Central Business District. Committee members to distribute flyers.

Members are requested to download and distribute copies of the attached flyer advertising the picnic, and to forward the attachment to those on their email lists.

Invitation to take part in the Shaping Orange Strategic Plan: ECCO members will have received in the mail an invitation to participate in the Shaping Orange Strategic Plan. Committee members will be attending each of the workshops, which will be conducted on:

- Wednesday, March 16 5.30 to 7.30 Orange Function Centre
- Thursday, March 17 10 am-12am Orange Function Centre
- Saturday March 19 2pm-4pm Orange Ex-Services Club

Issues identified by the committee as being important goals to be achieved in shaping Orange:

- 100% renewable energy for all public buildings
- Improved, efficient public transport systems operating in Orange
- Retention and maintenance of public green space, including public parks, gardens, trees etc.
- More efficient rail service to Sydney
- 100% diversion from landfill of Orange’s garbage
- Efficient use of grey water, including treatment for potable use.
- Rainwater tanks, solar panels, solar hot water, grey water system for every new house.

Public hearing into proposed reclassification of Council owned land:

The above public meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 22, commencing at 12.30 at the Council Chambers, Orange City Council civic centre, Byng Street, Orange. Those of us who have lodged submissions or petitions will have received an invitation to address the meeting in support of their submissions. Other members of the public are welcome to attend also. ECCO members are urged to attend if possible. Neil to speak on ECCO submissions.

Nick to write a letter to each member of Orange City Council, asking for their support for the ECCO submission on Orange’s parks. Copy of submission for each councillor.

100% renewables: Nick to contact the ECCO membership asking members to complete at least five surveys to assist with the 100% Renewable Energy campaign. Our aim is to get 500 responses. (see attachment.). Brian to contact the director of Orange University Campus to ask for the cooperation of students to complete surveys.

ECCO working with Cadia Mine on environmental issues: Peter West has been in contact with Cadia Mine concerning working with ECCO on environmental projects in Orange. Peter to suggest projects and present to the committee for discussion. Any ECCO members with ideas concerning the involvement of Cadia, please contact ECCO through the usual channels. The ideas obtained will provide a basis for future discussion with Cadia.

Clean up Australia Report: Organiser Peter West reports that 55 sites were registered in the Orange district and 330 people were involved in the event. Peter is currently organising the data. Currently of concern is the recurring problem of supermarket trolleys, plastic bags and plastic bottles. Tony to draft a letter to the relevant supermarkets concerning this issue. Peter to submit a report to Council through the Tidy Towns committee.

Other actions:

Peter has made contact with the franchisee of the local Orange MacDonalDs, who has offered to invite Ian Kiernan, the founder of Clean up Australia to Orange next year. MacDonalDs would be prepared to discuss further education of MacDonalDs customers re: responsible disposal of packaging.

Encourage consideration of the cleaning up of roadsides.

Bring up at the Orange open forum the issue of Council support for deposit legislation on bottles and the banning of plastic bags.

To contact our local state member of parliament concerning legislation on this issue after the State election.

Many thanks to Peter West for the excellent job he has done in organising the Clean up campaign.

Screening of Gaslands:

Gaslands is a movie about the disastrous environmental consequences of coal seam gas extraction through the technology of hydraulic fracturing or “fracking”, a process which is used in Australia to mine natural gas. (see attachment).

This movie will be screened at the Odeon Cinema for one night only on Thursday, March 24. Price: \$12.50 per adult, \$10.00 concession. Movie commences at 6.45.

OROS: Which stands for Orange Residents for Open Space. This is a newly formed group, the purpose of which is to promote community interest in the use and advocacy for public open space in Orange. Peter to liaise with the group. ECCO will circulate information about this group and how those who are interested can join it. ECCO to have a representative on the group. Those interested please contact ECCO.

Earth First: Peter West has done an excellent job in co-ordinating ECCO’s Earth First column for the last six months. It was agreed that the job of co-ordinating this most important facet of ECCO’s operation be shared by the membership.

Thus ECCO is seeking a volunteer to take over co-ordination of Earth First starting from the first weekend in April. Anyone interested please contact Peter or Nick through the ECCO contact. See attached message from Peter.

ECCO Environment awards: Nominated by Neil Jones: Pete’s car wash for the environmental initiatives he has implemented concerning the recycling of water etc. Accepted.

Glenroi Heights School Kitchen Garden Program: Members are reminded that the Glenroi Heights School Kitchen Garden program has a working bee from 1.45 to 3.00pm each Friday during school time. ECCO’s support is vital for the continuing success of this project. This Friday the school will be harvesting their potatoes. Pleas support if you are available.

Bowen School Indigenous Garden: Bowen School is seeking support from ECCO for the development of their school indigenous garden. They are requesting a letter of support from ECCO. Agreed by the meeting. Nick to write.

Gold and Copper Resources meeting: Meeting in Spring Hill concerning mining exploration on rural land attended by Susan Sanders. Members requiring more information about this meeting please contact ECCO.

Nick King Secretary.