

MINUTES OF ECCO COMMITTEE MEETING OF MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2011

Present: Peter West, Stephen Nugent, Phil Stephenson, Col Foster, Brian Phillips, Nick King

Apologies: Neil Jones, Tony Smith, Jenny Smith, Susan Sanders

General Business:

- **Ploughman's Valley Wetlands meeting:** To be held at Wentworth Golf Club on Tuesday, August 9, commencing 7pm. Bill Josh from Parks Alive and Roger Smith, co-coordinator of Conservation Volunteers from Orange City Council will be present to talk to the group about how it can support Council in the development of the wetlands. Col. Foster in his role of president of Daroo Urban Landcare will talk to the group about how it can work with Daroo Urban Landcare.
- **ECCO Annual General Meeting:** The committee agreed that the ECCO AGM should take place on Wednesday, September 21 at the function room at the Parkview Hotel. Commencing 7.30. Nick to book the venue and to organise a chairperson who can facilitate the election of officers for the 2011-2012 year. Brian Phillips to organise a guest speaker for the AGM.
- **Rotary Sustainable Living Week 10-18 September:** We now have sufficient starters for the ECCO House and Garden tour to be conducted on Sunday 18. List to be finalised by the next RSL Week planning meeting, Tuesday, August 16. Nick to organise.
- **Welcome back to the snipe:** ECCO to publicise a welcome back to the snipe picnic to be held on September 4, weather permitting, in the park at the southern end of the Ploughman's Valley Wetlands off Stirling Avenue, commencing 12.30 pm. The function will be a simple byo picnic. Orange Field Naturalists to be contacted to invite their participation. Members are asked to attend, spread the word and bring their friends.
- **Orange Showground :** Letter received from Orange City Council acknowledging ECCO's recent submission supporting the retention of Orange Showground as public open space. Phil. Stephenson, ECCO's representative on the group reports that OSAG has involved the NSW Minister for planning in an attempt to resolve the dispute and to advocate retaining the Orange Showground at its current site. ECCO to continue to maintain its stance on this issue.
- **Bloomfield Bushland:** Peter West has prepared a submission on behalf of ECCO objecting to the development of a 2.28 hectare section of the Bloomfield Bushland, because of the affect this development will have on the overall ecological value of the site. Peter's submission has been emailed to the membership. ECCO has previously made a submission along similar lines to the draft LEP. Thanks to Peter for the work he has put into developing a very fine submission.

- The situation provoking the submission will be discussed by the Bloomfield Bushland Action Group, which will be meeting on August 25. ECCO has representation on this group, and will report to the ECCO membership at the September committee meeting.
- **Natural Burials:** Brian to arrange a meeting with Mark Hodge from Orange City Council in the near future.
- **The Bathurst Orange Dubbo Sustainability Action Plan:** Brian Phillips has put forward some questions about this plan to be sent to Orange City Council to be discussed at the Community Forum on Thursday, August 11. The questions are concerned with what action has been taken by Orange City Council in the area of energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy. Nick to arrange for the letter to be delivered to Orange City Council and will attend the forum.
- **Cowra Conference: Energise Central West:** Attended by Brian Phillips, Bob Hill and Simon Wright. Brian to contact Bob and Simon to organise a report on the outstanding features of the conference for our next general meeting.
- **Next ECCO General Meeting:** To be held on Wednesday, August 24 at the ELF, commencing 7.30. The meeting will be a public meeting featuring the screening of the documentary “the Futuremakers”. There will be a report on the Cowra Conference (as mentioned above) prior to the screening.
- **ECCO environment awards:** The ECCO Winter environment award goes to Bill Josh for his very successful Parks Alive program. To be presented at the Rotary Sustainable Living Week launch on September 10. Stephen Nugent to organise the certificate. Nick to contact Bill re: acceptance, and preference for the prize. As yet there is no nomination for the climate action award.

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