

MINUTES OF ECCO COMMITTEE MEETING MAY 9, 2011

PRESENT: Phil. Stephenson, Brian Phillips, Jenny Smith, Tony Smith, Neil Jones, Meg. Bannigan, Col. Foster, Nick King

APOLOGIES: Stephen Nugent, Peter West, Susan Sanders

BUSINESS ARISING FROM APRIL COMMITTEE MEETING

Windows retrofit: This meeting with council staff to inspect the Orange City Council window retrofit has been postponed. Members will be advised of the new date. It was agreed that a Wednesday at 5pm would be a suitable date. Members to be advised as to which Wednesday.

Environmental Awards: Candidates for ECCO environmental awards, Wishart's Automotive and Pete's Car Wash have nominated. Candidates to be contacted and awards announced and publicised in an Earth First article when the necessary paperwork is completed by the candidates.

GENERAL BUSINESS

LOCAL ENVIRONMENT PLAN

Bloomfield Bushland: Council staff has supported the recommendation of E2, Environmental Protection for the relevant areas, which is in agreement with the submission of ECCO. The department of health supports residential zoning.

Ploughman's Valley Wetland: There will be an opportunity to speak against the classification at the meeting on the 16th. Nick to speak on behalf of ECCO.

Parks reclassification: ECCO to support objections to reclassification of Dobbin Park, Froglet Park.

Those ECCO members who wish to speak about any issue relating to the local environment plan need to register at the desk at Orange City Council by filling in a form before the deadline of 5pm, Monday, May 16.

Glenroi School Kitchen Garden program: ECCO needs to continue to support this very worthy program. The Building Education Revolution kitchen built to support the project has been completed, which means the program in its entirety can now proceed. ECCO members to meet with school personnel to consider future directions of the program. Members are urged to continue to participate in the weekly working bees which take place each Friday at the school from 1.45 to 3.00pm.

Orange Showground Selloff: The proposed selloff of Orange Showground is once more on the agenda of Orange City Council, as it was in 2009. At this time ECCO made a submission opposing the sale of public land. This remains ECCO's position. Orange City Council will be meeting with the Orange Showground Action Group to discuss the issue.

Earth First: Earth First has a new coordinator. Meg Bannigan has volunteered to take on the position of the coordinator of Earth First, ECCO's weekly Central Western Daily column which is published each Saturday. Meg will be looking for environmental contributions to this column from ECCO members and other members of the community who have environmental expertise and passion. More information on Earth First and how ECCO members can assist and contribute.

100% Renewable Energy campaign: Nick to email a copy of the 100% renewable energy campaign survey to the membership encouraging members to complete the survey if they have not already done so, and to distribute the survey to any organization or workplace with which they are associated. Completed forms can be posted to our ECCO postbox PO 1582, or completed online. Please find attached details of a phone in to politicians and a letter writing campaign in which members might wish to participate. At this point in time we have received 100 completed surveys. We would like 200 by May 31.

Proposed Council climate Action strategies

Neil to report to the membership the progress being made by the Environmental Sustainability committee on the Bathurst Orange Dubbo sustainable action plan. He will be asking for information on this issue at the next meeting of that committee on May 17.

Committee endorsement of the CANA Climate Action communiqué: This document has been circulated to the ECCO committee. Committee members need to contact Nick to indicate their support by emailing Nick by Monday. Any ECCO member who wishes to have this communiqué on climate action emailed to him or her, please contact Nick on our ECCO email address-ecco.orange@gmail.com.

Use of Orange City Council Community Forum: ECCO to devote a time at each committee meeting to consider any items or topics which could be appropriately put forward at the monthly community forms. (2nd Thursday of each month 6.30-7.30).

Bowen Public School Indigenous Garden Project: Nick represents ECCO at the meetings involving the development of the garden. ECCO to seek information on behalf of the group concerning plants indigenous to the Orange district.

Rotary Sustainability Week September 10-18: ECCO's main contribution to host the House and Garden tour on Sunday, September 18. ECCO to commence contacting houses and gardens which are examples of sustainability.

Natural Burials: Brian reports that Orange city Council has officially allocated funding and grounds to establish a natural burial ground in the Orange cemetery. Mark Hodges has indicated that he would appreciate support from ECCO for the development of the natural burial ground. This ECCO members interested in becoming involved to form a working group to discuss. More information about this will be forthcoming.

World Migratory Bird Day: Actually two days-May 14th and 15th. To commemorate this day ECCO will be conducting a walk through Ploughman's Valley wetlands, the summer home of the Japanese snipe, at 3pm on Sunday, May 15. Members are

encouraged to attend and bring their friends. Also bring their gumboots and a pair of binoculars if they have them.

Coal and gas exploration: Tony Smith to draft a letter to Andrew Gee expressing concern and requesting information about the state government's progress in handling coal exploration on the Liverpool Plains and coal seam gas extraction in New South Wales.

Glenroi Cleanup: Neil has proposed that ECCO organise a cleanup of the Glenroi area. Organizations such as Orange City Council, Glenroi School, local church groups, Department of Housing and members of the Glenroi community to be encouraged to participate. Proposed dates of cleanup-June 5th or June 19th.

Next ECCO meeting: May 25 at ELF, commencing 7.30

Nick