

ECCO COMMITTEE MEETING NOVEMBER 10, 2010

Present: Tony Smith, Jenny Smith, Stephen Nugent, Peter West, Brian Phillips, Col. Foster, Nick King, Haidee Nelson

Apologies: Yvette Black, Neil Jones,

Minutes of Committee meeting of October 13, 2010: Moved that the minutes of the abovementioned committee meeting be accepted. Carried.

Business arising:

Letter from St. Mary's primary school about their k-yr 6 environment groups. Nick has contacted the school and arrangements have been made for an ECCO visit prior to the nomination of the group for an ECCO environment award. (Visit to take place November 14, at 1pm).

Colin Bower's letter: Neil and Nick and Peter to approach Colin about his concerns about how wetlands are constructed with a view to further discussions on the matter at the next meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Committee.

Letter to Woolworths: It was agreed that ECCO write to Woolworths commending them on the action they have taken to ensure that their trolleys do not become an environmental problem

Orange Field Naturalist and Conservation Society Biodiversity Discovery Day: Moved that the day in question become a regular event on Orange's environmental calendar. If so, ECCO to support the Field Nats. with organization and implementation of the day. Tony Smith to discuss this at the next committee meeting of the Field Naturalists.

October's General meeting: Consisted of an excellent presentation by Diana Kureen, from the Central West Catchment Management Authority on water sensitive urban design. It was determined that a suitable follow up to this presentation should be for ECCO to contact appropriate Council employees to request their availability to discuss how Orange City Council incorporates the principles of water sensitive urban design in their development control plan etc.

It was also agreed that water sensitive urban design should be a topic for discussion at the next Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting, and also be included as a topic for Sustainability Week 2011.

An Earth First article to be written about this topic also.

Peter West has volunteered to discuss this issue further with Diana Kureen, particularly on the subject of available grants for water sensitive design.

Botanic Gardens Master Plan: Now available for discussion. Copy circulating among the committee. Copies available for perusal at the Council and on line. ECCO is represented on the planning group.

Earth First: Many thanks to Peter West who has volunteered to take over the co-ordination of Earth First from Haidee Nelson who has been doing this job for a major part of 2010.

Sustainability 2011: ECCO has committed to running the Sustainable House and Garden Tour on a similar basis to 2010. ECCO has also committed to assisting Rotary with organizing a schools program and liaising with local schools and Orange District Education Office personnel.

Treasurer's report: Current balance \$3,152. 99. Nick to send reminders to all members who have not as yet renewed their membership for 2011. It was agreed that the letter should include an invitation to members to contact ECCO if they no longer wished to remain members and receive ECCO information.

General Business: Ploughman's Valley. ECCO to begin to develop a submission opposing the LEP classification of residential for the southern half of Ploughman's Valley. The submission against residential development in this area will be:

- That it is the habitat of the Japanese snipe.
- That it is unsuitable for housing development
- That it is part of Orange's stormwater harvesting system.

Nick and Tony to monitor the snipe and organise publicity for their cause in the local media.

Local Environment plan: Nick has contacted Council staff who inform him that the LEP will not be available until December. Nick to email membership the submissions prepared by ECCO, which will be discussed at a future meeting after the LEP become public. Members not on email can contact Nick (63 62 6827) to be provided with a copy of the submissions.

Bloomfield Bushland: ECCO is represented on the Bloomfield Bushland Group which will be making a response to the classification of the Bloomfield Bushland when the Local Environment Plan is made public. The Orange Field Naturalists are surveying the area. Peter and Yvette will be conducting a superb parrot survey of the area.

Change of ECCO committee meeting nights: Monday night was seen as a better alternative to Wednesday nights by some ECCO committee members. ECCO committee to be circulated concerning which night individuals prefer. Majority preference will prevail. This refers to committee meetings only.

ECCO representation on Council Committees: ECCO is represented on several Council committees. It was proposed by the committee that a stocktake of ECCO involvement be taken, and that a regular report of what is happening on these committees be delivered to the membership. For discussion at a future ECCO meeting.

Clean up Australia Day: (March 6, 2011). Peter West is ECCO's representative on the Tidy Towns committee. Peter will continue to keep ECCO informed concerning

the progress of this committee and ECCO's commitment to Tidy Towns 2011. ECCO to communicate Tidy Towns information as appropriate.

Note that the Glenroi School Kitchen Garden project which is supported by ECCO won a Tidy Towns award for the best community garden.

Recommended book: "Disconnected" by Andrew Leigh, Published by New South. Deals with the disconnectedness and lack of community created by modern residential development, and what we need to do to create a sense of community through urban design.

Climate Action: Brian and Nick to meet with Bathurst Community Climate Action Network (BCCAN) to discuss the possibility of a joint meeting with parliamentary representatives about the proposed coal subsidy to power stations. There will also be a meeting to hear proposed climate action initiatives for the forthcoming state elections and the Climate Camp (5-10 December 2010) at Bayswater Power Station. Members interested in finding out the program for the camp can either contact Nick through the ECCO email or ring on 63 62 6827 or visit the Climate Action Camp 2010 website by googling the above.

Nick King Secretary