

ECCO GENERAL MEETING MAY 25, 2011

Present: Colin Foster, Nick King, Jenny Smith, Tony Smith, Phil Stephenson, Bob Hill, Meg Bannigan, Susan Sanders, Brian Phillips, Rod Holcombe, Peter West

Apologies: Cilla Kinross, Yvette Black

Minutes of previous general meeting: April's general meeting was a public meeting with presenters on the topic of renewable energy, so no official business was conducted.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Colin Foster reports that ECCO is in a healthy financial position with a bank balance as at 24/5/2011 of \$2364 dollars and 66 cents, with no outstanding debts and no significant future expenditure. ECCO currently has a membership of 93, which is consistent with previous years.

General Business:

Orange Parks, Bloomfield Bushland, Ploughman's Valley Wetland. Where to from now?

Orange Parks: Although currently safe from residential development, it is important that advocacy remains for Orange's parks and continued concern for the parks should be expressed through ongoing community involvement in their maintenance. The meeting agreed that this could be done through:

- ECCO supporting local park advocacy groups which have emerged since the parks have become an issue.
- Investigating a parks alive type program, which has been previously suggested. Getting information from the ACT parks program.
- Working with the recently formed OROS group. Peter to invite OROS to attend ECCO's next committee meeting.
- Meeting with Orange City Council parks and gardens staff about how the community can contribute to a parks program.
- Working with Daroo Urban Landcare group and other organisations involved in the environmental development of public open space.

Bloomfield Bushland: Bloomfield Bushland Action Group to continue to meet, ECCO members of this group are Yvette Black, Nick King and Neil Jones.

Ploughman's Valley Wetland: ECCO to revisit the existing Ploughman's Valley Action Group with the aim of forming a group which supports the development of the Ploughman's Valley wetland.

Naming of parks: Tony Smith to write to council concerning the naming of the unnamed four hectares of open space on Kearney's Drive.

There are other parks and areas of open space which have not been named. Future consideration needs to be given about how they could be named, hopefully involving local residents in the choice of name.

National Tree Day: Will be celebrated on July 31. This would be a good time to announce a plan for a support group network for the parks.

A Celebration of the return of the Japanese, or Latham's snipe to Ploughman's Valley in the spring: It was agreed that a celebration of the return of this bird to the Ploughman's Valley wetlands should take place on Sunday , September 4, at the small park off Stirling Avenue. Members who wish to volunteer to organise this event contact Nick on 63 62 6827 or come to our next committee meeting, or both.

Welcome to the superb parrots: It was also agreed that we organise a similar event to celebrate the return to the Bloomfield Bushland area of another of Orange's seasonal migrants, the superb parrot, at a date to be determined in November.

The ECCO Local Environment Awards: The current recipients of the ECCO Local Environment Awards are Wishart's Automotive Services for their use of renewable energy in their workshop, which is to receive the ECCO Climate Action Award and Pete's Carwash, for their 5 star water rating scheme accreditation. Nick to organise for the successful recipients to receive their awards and the associated publicity. Awards to be publicised in Earth First for June 4, one day prior to World Environment day.

World Environment Day:

- Earth First article to accompany ECCO Local Environment awards
- Information about the proposed Glenroi cleanup day.
- Clean up Australia Day Newsletter emailed to ECCO membership. A site to support the movement for deposits on drink containers. (to be forwarded.)
Members will note that this is an ongoing campaign, which hopefully all will support.

Glenroi Cleanup day: To take place Sunday 19th June. Currently those involved are ECCO and Glenroi School. The local hockey association will be approached to participate, and the school will publicise the event through their normal means of communication to the Glenroi school community. The cleanup is supported by Orange City Council who will be hosting a barbecue.

Sue Clarke from Netwaste will be contacted to address Glenroi School on the issue of waste and litter to promote the cleanup.

Nick to write to Andrew Gee MHR to ask for his support and participation in the event.

ECCO Annual General Meeting: The AGM of any organization can take place any time during the six months of the end of its financial year. Nick to find out when ECCO's financial year ends and liaise with office bearers as to a date to hold the AGM when all can attend.

Inspection of Council window retrofit: Brian has organised for a meeting with Orange City Council staff to inspect the double glazing window retrofit of the Orange Civic Centre. The meeting will be on Wednesday, June 15 at 5pm. All interested

members and friends welcome. This type of window refit is cheaper than conventional double glazing and is suitable for private residences.

100% renewable energy campaign: There will be a doorknock held to conduct a survey on renewable energy this Saturday, May 28, commencing 2 pm. Nick King, Brian Phillips and Rod Holcombe will be conducting the survey. Anyone who would like to be involved in this or future surveys, please contact Nick.

The ECCO membership has been forwarded the latest email from the 100% renewable energy group. Members are urged to participate in this campaign by going to the section of the email down the bottom entitled "sign the email action."

If ECCO members have not already done so, could they fill in the previously emailed 100% renewable energy survey form and either email it or mail it to PO box 1582. Also, could they distribute it to their contacts.

Brian Phillips has successfully distributed and had returned survey forms from Charles Sturt university, and Electrolux and is currently negotiating with Bunnings and the Orange Ex-Services club and other organisations to gain more public feedback on renewable energy which will contribute to the anticipated 20 000 responses nationwide, which will provides encouragement for legislation on the support for renewables in our Federal Parliament.

ECCO's response to the reduction of the NSW feedin tariff: Nick to write a letter to Andrew Gee expressing concern about the uncertainty for the renewable energy industry that this proposed legislation has caused. Nick and Tony to first contact renewable energy industry suppliers for their response.

Talk by Rod Quantoc: The meeting listened to an address to the recent CANA conference in Melbourne by comedian Rod Quantoc. Well worth listening to. Rod has given permission for it to be copied and used in other public arenas.

Orange Showground: ECCO to write to the general manager of Orange City Council indicating ECCO's support for the retention of Orange City Council consistent to the ECCO submission on the Orange Showground of 2009, which supports the position of the Orange Showground Action Group.

Natural Burials: Mark Hodges from Orange City Council to meet with Tony Smith, Nick King and Brian Phillips concerning the details of the proposed natural burial ground at Orange Cemetery.

Orange Sustainable Living Week 10-18 September. ECCO to organise the sustainable house and garden tour. We need to begin to look for examples of leading edge sustainability for this tour. Any members who wish to nominate any such example to contact ECCO on our email address or ring Nick.

Glenroi School Kitchen Garden: If any ECCO member is aware of a source of well aged horse, cow, sheep or chicken manure which is preferably free, could they please contact Nick on 63 62 6827.

ECCO email ecco.orange@gmail.com website www.eccorange.org.au