

## **MINUTES OF ECCO GENERAL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 24,2010**

**Present:** Jenny Smith, Tony Smith, John Pilane, Peter West, Haidee Nelson, Phil Stephenson, Brian Phillips, Cilla Kinross, Neil Jones, Nick King, Susan Sanders, Rod Holcombe, Col Foster, David Williams, Yvette Black

**Apologies:** Stephen Nugent, Bob Hill

**Minutes of October general meeting:** As the October general meeting was completely taken up with a presentation, there was no general business conducted, hence no recorded minutes. Future action as the result of the presentation has been discussed at the ECCO November committee meeting, and is to be further dealt with in general business.

**Treasurer's report:** Current balance at \$3, 299.00. Moved Nick King, seconded Brian Phillips that Murray Fletcher and Vicki Glover be offered ECCO life membership as acknowledgement of their most generous donation to ECCO. Carried unanimously.

Nick to send out reminder notices to members who have not renewed their membership. It was agreed at the November committee meeting that the reminder should include a request to recipients to contact ECCO if they no longer wish to receive emails, letters etc.

A future purchase for consideration is a portable display board. This year ECCO has been involved in activities which require a display board, which we were able to borrow. We will have a need for such an item in the future.

**General Business: Earth First:** A presentation was made by Neil Jones on behalf of ECCO to Haidee Nelson in appreciation of her work in co-coordinating the Earth First column, which appears each Saturday in the Central Western Daily. Many thanks to Peter West who has agreed to take over from Haidee.

**ECCO Environment awards:** The meeting endorsed the selection of the St. Mary's school environment group and school kitchen garden for an ECCO environment award. Nick to contact St Mary's to organise a time for ECCO to present this award to the school. Nick to also approach the coordinator of this program to write an article for Earth First. ECCO to organise media publicity for the presentation.

**Ploughman's Valley:** Neil Jones reported that the Local Environment Plan will be on display commencing the first week in December. Neil will move to have the display period extended beyond the customary 6 weeks to February. It was agreed to proceed on the Ploughman's Valley issue in anticipation of the LEP as the classification of the Ploughman's Valley wetland is already known.

- Tony Smith has approached two local real estate agents who have not supported the idea of building houses in the wetland.
- Earth First to carry an article about the Japanese or Latham's snipe written by Tony. The snipe rely on such a wetland environment as Ploughman's Valley for their survival.
- Neil to draft a message to the householders living in the surrounding estates, which will be delivered by ECCO volunteers through door knocking and letterbox drops. A request for volunteers for this exercise will be forthcoming when more details have been addressed.

- A public meeting will be organised .

**The LEP:** Should be available for the next ECCO committee meeting, which is scheduled for December 8, 2010. How ECCO is going to respond to this document will be discussed at this meeting.

**Water sensitive Urban Design:** An appropriate opportunity for ECCO to engage with Council on this subject will be when Orange's Development Control plan is on display, which will be in March 2011.

**Change of committee meeting days:** It was agreed that a change of meeting nights, from Wednesday to Monday be trialed in the New Year, commencing the second Monday of February, 2011.

**Council Committees:** ECCO members serve on a number of council committees. It was agreed that ECCO members of these committees provide feedback (if relevant to the function of ECCO to the membership of ECCO through reports at ECCO general meetings.

**Movie: The Power of Community:** Brian Phillips to receive a copy of this movie to preview and recommend for a future screening as a fundraiser or for viewing at a general meeting. The movie concerns Cuba's creative, collaborative community based response to having its oil supply cut off after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

**Natural Burials:** Mark Hodges will be taking Brian's proposal about natural burials to a meeting of the sustainable development committee. Neil will let members know when this meeting is to take place.

**Retrofitted glazing:** Orange City Council has retrofitted glazing for the Civic Centre. Brian to arrange a tour for ECCO members to enable us to examine this method of saving energy.

**Biochar:** Brian has researched the development of a portable biochar unit, which should be of interest to Centroc. He has passed on details to the Centroc Climate Change Development Officer, who will pass the information on to the manager of Netwaste.

**Solar Hot Water:** ECCO to pursue the proposition that solar hot water be a Development Control Plan requirement for all new houses when the Development Control Plan is placed on display for submission and comment.

**RM Williams Outback Magazine:** This month's edition of this popular periodical has an excellent article on wind farms.

**Blayney forum on Wind Farms:** As emailed to the membership. Brian to attend. Orange has been identified in the Zero Carbon Australia 2020 document as one of the areas identified in the plan for a network of major wind farms. <http://www.beyondzeroemissions.org/zero-carbon-australia-2020>

**Management of flying foxes:** The report on the management of flying foxes will be on the Orange City Council website by the end of this week for those members who are interested in reading it. Nick has a hard copy.

Nick King Secretary

