

ECCO COMMITTEE MEETING 12TH MARCH 2008

PRESENT: Colin Foster, Stephen Nugent, Robert Alford, Phillip Stevenson, Margaret Weaver, Susan Sanders, Rod Holcombe, Neil Jones, Nick King.

APOLOGIES: Jenny Smith

Correspondence: Letter received from Daroo Urban Landcare Group encouraging ECCO members to join and become involved in the group's landcare activities. This letter to be tabled at the next ECCO meeting. Colin Foster, president of the Daroo Urban Landcare Group to speak to the letter. OCAN to change their committee meeting night, as it clashes with Daroo's, which has always been the first Tuesday of each month.

Administration: ECCO now has a PO box, which is **ECCO Orange Inc. PO Box 1582 Orange 2800**. Ecco also has a GMail address which is ecco.orange@gmail.com Members and supporters who wish to write or Email ECCO may now do so using the above addresses.

ECCO logo: Stephen Nugent has designed a logo for ECCO suitable for use as a letterhead for ECCO correspondence. He will be circulating an image of the logo for comment and discussion at the next ECCO general meeting.

Circulation of minutes: Minutes of meetings will no longer be circulated by Nick to non financial members. It is assumed that they no longer wish to receive them.

New Membership form: A new membership form is to be designed which will include the above Gmail and PO Box details. It may also include the option of a \$150 life membership . The life membership option is to be decided at the next general meeting of ECCO.

Website upgrade: Nick and Neil have met with Paul Carpenter, computer consultant, who will be assisting ECCO with an improved website upgrade.

ECCO objectives: Neil and Nick to work on ECCO objectives, which need some changing, especially in such areas as climate change and more precise definition of ECCO's role and function and how this overlaps in the support of other groups and issues, such as heritage, streetscape etc.

Ploughman's Valley update: ECCO was informed at the Water forum on Thursday 12th March that the Ploughman's Valley wetlands construction project has been placed on hold due to priorities involving storm water harvesting on Blackman's Swamp Creek.

New Anglican School: ECCO to contact David Williams re. communication with the Anglican School concerning environmental aspects of the development of the site.

Information about water: ECCO wrote to the General Manager, Mr. Garry Styles on February 14th 2008 requesting more frequent and accessible information concerning

the water situation in Orange. No reply has been forthcoming. Communication with Council on this issue to be followed up by committee members.

Botanic Gardens Precinct: The committee agreed that there was a need to involve the stakeholders in discussion about ideas for the future of this land. It was proposed that a meeting be organised involving such stakeholders as ECCO, Field Naturalists, Friends of the Gardens, the Adventure Playground supporters etc.

Orange City Council Recreational Needs Study January 2008. Neil and Nick have a copy of this document, which is also available from the Orange City Council. The report examines future options for the future provision of recreational facilities and services. Members' attention is particularly drawn to item 5.5, page 42 on Excess Open Space, the implications being the possible rezoning of open space to other possibly environmentally unfriendly use.

Baldock Stacey and Niven Building: ECCO to continue to be involved on issues relating to environmental credentials, streetscape, bulk and scale. ECCO needs to work in with other groups concerned about this development, such as the Heritage group. ECCO needs to be in a better position to make an informed decision about the green credentials of the current proposal. Neil to meet with heritage group to acquire information to inform ECCO re. possible future involvement in this issue.

Trees at New Hospital Site: Neil and Nick have met with Health Department and construction representatives concerning the future of this site. Few details were forthcoming. ECCO to continue to liaise with representatives of the development. Future liaison will include a more comprehensive examination of the site.

Trees at the corner of the Northern Distributor and William Maker Drive: ECCO to seek a meeting with Chris Devitt concerning the future of the above trees.

OCAN Report: Energy education: Proposed by Robert Alford, supported by the meeting that ECCO organise a day where presentations are made by experts in the energy field, the purpose of this day being the education of ECCO members about energy, to enable us to make decisions based on sound knowledge and fact when debating environmental issues involving energy. Robert to further research this project.

Food: Nick to develop a pamphlet promoting the support of local produce. To be ready for distribution at FOOD week . Prior to printing and distribution to be circulated to members of OCAN committee and others who express interest for comment. Also to be circulated to the FOOD committee for their approval.

Earth Hour: OCAN has circulated Orange City Council, The Chamber of Commerce, Orange District Schools concerning support for Earth Hour on March 29th 2008. More information will be circulated to members as it comes to hand.

Sustainable housing: Brian Phillips to do a survey of occupants of householders who have occupied dwellings since the introduction of Basix. ECCO to invite a Basix expert to the April ECCO meeting.

Environmental Awards: Proposed by Stephen for discussion at the next ECCO meeting that awards format should be that of frequent (perhaps quarterly) awards which should be predominantly acknowledging Climate Action initiatives, and that OCAN could undertake the organization of these awards. This to be discussed at the next OCAN meeting. Suggested that the awards could be launched at the Rotary Expo in October.

Bush regeneration: A book by Rod Holcombe: Rod Holcombe has agreed to bring copies of his book to the next ECCO meeting for the perusal by members. Rod to be guest speaker at the May meeting of ECCO on the topic of bush regeneration. ECCO also to support Rod by advertising an official book launch among members of ECCO and other environmental groups, such as the Orange Field Naturalists, and Daroo Urban Landcare Group.

Community Support Grants: These are available from the Orange Credit Union and could help finance some of the projects which ECCO has underway, such as the proposed energy day. Entries close on March 31st. Robert and Neil to pursue this opportunity.

NRMA grants: Also available. Also due in March. Nick to follow up for more information.

Earth First: Isobel Higgins, the writer of the weekly Column Earth First would welcome articles from ECCO on environmental matters. These could be on a monthly or bimonthly basis. ECCO to contact Isobel regarding the specifications(e.g. column length appropriate topics etc.) Both ECCO and OCAN welcome the opportunity for this level of exposure.

Next Meeting: March Meeting: Will be a general meeting to be conducted on March 26th at the Environmental Learning Facility, commencing 7.30 on March 26th.

Nick King Secretary (ph) 63 62 6827
Email : Above gmail website.