

MINUTES OF COMBINED ECCO/OCAN MEETING, DEC. 10TH, 2008

PRESENT: Neil Jones, Yvette Black, Tony Smith, Phillip Stephenson, Nick King, Peter West

APOLOGIES: Susan Sanders, Jenny Smith, Stephen Nugent

Environment Awards: Nick to contact Gerde and Eva Wolf, and Sandra and Owen Robinson as to the venue, time and choice of prize acceptable to them. Suggested venues and times are the Farmers' Market this Saturday at either nine or eleven, or the ELF Community Garden at 10 o'clock this Saturday.

To then contact Neil who will contact the CWD to arrange for them to do a photo and story.

Stephen to arrange with the Principal of Orange Public School concerning the time and place for their presentation, as well as the choice of award. Choices for all recipients are gift vouchers either from Book City or Windy Hill nursery.

Trees at Bloomfield: Contrary to their agreement to retain some of the more significant trees on the Forensic Mental Health building site, the builders have removed all vegetation from the site. Tony Smith to contact Tom Longhurst, our contact at the site, to express ECCO's disappointment and to remind him of the agreement ECCO and other organizations have with the hospital landscaping committee concerning input into revegetation of the site on the completion of building activity.

Bloomfield Crown Land: Yvette Black reported on the existence of an area of wooded crown land adjacent to Bloomfield Oval and Hinton Reserve. This area has potential for regeneration and provision of a link to Hinton Reserve. There has been representation to Neil on behalf of the Rural Fire Service and the manager of Spotless, the cleaning organization attached to the Linen Service about this matter. Neil to attend a meeting on Friday with the above organizations to discuss this.

Walk against Warming: The meeting decided to approach the appropriate bodies to organise next year's Walk Against Warming to take place down Summer Street to Robinson Park on the designated national date. Nick to commence organization ASAP.

Carbon Farming Conference: Brian Phillips tabled several booklets containing valuable information obtained from the conference. These booklets were chosen by Brian because they have relevance for the urban dweller. Nick to circulate details of the booklets in a separate email at a later date.

Orange High Presentation: Nick to write to Orange High School thanking Peter Napier for his presentation and offering ECCO's support and assistance for future long term planning for the site.

Threatened sale of Crown land at Lucknow: Neil has investigated the situation in response to information from a landowner who has property beside the Crown Land in

question. Two adjacent owners are opposing the sale of this land to a private owner. This land has the potential to be a wildlife corridor. An issue to be further explored by ECCO and the Filed Naturalists next year.

Local Environment Plan: Tony Smith has met with counsel representatives within the planning department of Orange City Council. He was informed that the Local Environment Plan will be available for public display at the end of March, early April. Tony has suggested that ECCO finds out the content of the plan, subsequently dividing it into sections which can be looked at intensively by a committee for each section.

Sale of DPI land: The Department of Primary Industry is proposing to sell their land in Forest Road for residential development, choosing to bypass the normal LEP process. The DPI is seeking rezoning of the land in question to urban residential. The DPI have a concept plan which has been lodged at Council and is available for perusal. Tony to approach Council for available information about this plan and top report to the next ECCO meeting.

Ploughman's Valley wetland: ECCO needs to reactivate pressure on Council concerning the retention of Ploughman's Valley as a wetland, rather than land for residential development. This is opportune as Ploughman's Creek is now seen as having potential as part of Orange's water harvesting program.

Anglican Grammar School: First sod has been turned in preparation for the construction of the Anglican Grammar School. Only concern for ECCO is traffic up Hewitt Close.

Community Land Use Committee: Phil Stephenson and Nick King are accepted as community representatives on this committee. Other committees which have vacancies and would benefit from an ECCO member are the Environmental Sustainability Committee (room for one more) and the Orange Botanic Gardens committee (one vacancy). Anyone interested in being on either of these committees, contact Nick on ECCO's gmail site.

Orange Evangelical Church: The application to build a church at the corner of Ploughman's Lane and Cargo Road will be discussed at next Monday's Sustainable Development Committee meeting. ECCO to deliver a letter to Alan Renikie, head of planning expressing confusion about the inclusion of the dam and disappointment about the lack of provision for bicycles.

ECCO Website: Nick has had a discussion with Paul Carpenter, who is to redesign the ECCO website. He will be meeting with Phil Stephenson to implement Paul's recommendations.

Energy Audits: Brian Phillips addressed the meeting with his plan to develop an energy audits scheme whereby households who could demonstrate savings in energy through innovative practice could be recognized through receiving prizes provided by sponsorship from businesses that specialize in providing energy or energy reducing products such as Country Energy or solar energy providers, insulation etc. Neil to put

this to Country Energy when he attends the next meeting with them on February 23rd. Full details need to be available to ECCO's committee meeting in February.

ECCO/OCAN combined committee meetings: It was agreed that, starting from February, 2009 that ECCO and OCAN combine their committee meetings to prevent duplication, as many members are on both committees.

Earth First Article: Yvette Black to write the Earth First article for Saturday, December 13th, on "Being Green at Work." The following week will be a profile on one of the winners of the Environment awards, subject to their approval. Nick to do this.

Climate Action Summit: Neil and Nick to attend the Climate Action Summit in Canberra from the 29th to the 31st of January 2009. More information will be forthcoming concerning this event. Neil to write an Earth First article about this event in January. All members of the public are welcome to attend this summit. For further details go to www.climatesummit.org.au ECCO members may wish to join Neil and myself in forming a human circle around Parliament House on the first sitting day in 2009, to remind the Government about its responsibilities concerning climate change.

Photovoltaic Rebate Programme: Nick to contact Orange Regional conservatorium to make them aware of the possibility of taking advantage of Government assistance in accessing support for the installation of a photovoltaic energy facility.

Become a connector: Involves screening the documentary on climate change, "Telling the Truth" to groups such as workmates, club members etc to stimulate discussion and to facilitate climate action planning at group level. If you are interested in obtaining more information, go to <http://connectors.acfonline.org.au>

Indian Mynah sightings: It has been reported to Peter West that Indian Mynahs have been sighted in numbers in Orange. Nick to raise the issue at the next meeting of Orange Field Naturalists.

Donation by Joyce Cooper: Many thanks to ECCO member Joyce Cooper, who has made a donation to ECCO. Her generous donation allowed ECCO to purchase gift vouchers to be awarded to the recipients of the ECCO Environment Awards.

NEXT OCAN/ECCO COMMITTEE MEETING :

Wednesday, February 11th, 2009- 7.30 pm at 6 Pasadena Place

NEXT ECCO GENERAL MEETING:

Wednesday, February 25th 2009-7.30 at the Environment Learning Facility (ELF), Orange Showground.

Nick King Secretary. Gmail: ecco.orange@gmail.com

