

MINUTES OF ECCO COMMITTEE MEETING MARCH 10 2010

PRESENT: Neil Jones, Colin Foster, Brian Phillips, Susan Sanders, Jenny Smith, Tony Smith, Nick King

APOLOGIES: Phil Stephenson, Peter West, Yvette Black, Stephen Nugent

GENERAL BUSINESS: Clean Up Australia Day: Moved Tony Smith seconded Nick King that ECCO writes to Clean up Australia recommending that a sign which is readable at a distance be included in the Clean up Australia Day supervisor's kit to advertise to passers by that a Clean up Australia Day activity is in operation and to motivate them to participate.

As usual, Clean up Australia volunteers collected vast amounts of plastic bottles. It was agreed that ECCO write to Orange City Council requiring them to put pressure on the New South Wales government to introduce a deposit on containers.

It was also noted that supermarket trolleys continue to be retrieved from parks and waterways. It was agreed that ECCO contact Orange City Council about this matter.

Congratulations to Peter West for his excellent organization of the event.

Next ECCO general meeting: Sustainable development- The Local Environment Plan and the Development Control Plan- David Waddell, Director of Development Services and Rishell Turner, Senior Planner have been approached to be guest speakers. Neil to negotiate with speakers and to organise publicity for this meeting. ECCO has lodged several submissions to the LEP, so its development should be of great interest to the membership. Members will be advised when the LEP and the DCP are available for public scrutiny.

Earth Hour: Stephen Nugent has completed the flyer advertising ECCO's Earth Hour, Picnic under the Stars. Nick to organise printing and distribution in the Orange CBD. The ECCO committee has agreed to the printing of one hundred copies. The flyer will be distributed electronically to the ECCO membership, which will be requested to distribute it to friends, neighbours etc. Copies to be distributed to the Orange field Naturalists also.

Nick King has written a letter to the Orange business community encouraging the observance of Earth Hour, also letting Orange businesses know that their support of Earth Hour will be acknowledged in the Central Western Daily. This letter will also be circulated to the ECCO membership with a request that members approach businesses with which they are involved to encourage them to support the concept of Earth Hour every Hour.

Neil, Nick and Chris Wade to continue to arrange live entertainment for Picnic under the Stars. Neil to organise a telescope for the night to enable picnickers to observe the heavens.

Advertising for Earth Hour and Picnic under the Stars has been arranged with local radio stations, local print media and prime television.

Country Energy to investigate the possibility of monitoring the effect of Earth Hour on electricity consumption.

April General Meeting: Groundwater: Organisation is underway for an ECCO public meeting on the issue of groundwater. The meeting will involve information delivered by a hydrologist on the hydrogeology of groundwater, followed by a presentation on the management of groundwater as a resource- i.e. accessing groundwater, monitoring groundwater, who owns it, legal issues associated with groundwater etc. This is an issue which affects us all. Members will be asked to promote this meeting when more information is made available.

ECCO brochure: Many thanks to Stephen Nugent who has designed a brochure to promote ECCO. It has been agreed that 1000 copies be printed. Nick to organise.

Orange Photo News: This month's sustainability feature: Clean up Australia Day. ECCO members have agreed to contribute to the April and May feature. ECCO now has regular commitments to the Central Western Daily, local Community Radio, and Orange Photo news. Volunteers from the ECCO membership to contribute to any of these commitments are most welcome.

ECCO Environment Awards: Recipients to be contacted and a time to be arranged for the presentation of the awards. Arrangements to be made for publicity for recipients through the central Western Daily if they are agreeable. Recipients are Ross and Pam Montgomery for a water wise native garden and Christine McIntosh for raising awareness of waste management issues and community campaigning for better waste management.

Green drinks: Members and friends are invited to attend Green Drinks at the Union Bank at 3.30 on Sunday 21st. This is a great opportunity for us to get together in an informal atmosphere to discuss green issues and anything else you wish to talk about.

Climate Action Summit 2010: Brian and Jan Phillips to attend from Orange. Bob and Judy Hill will be attending from BCCAN in Bathurst. One of the issues to be covered at the summit will be that of the coal industry. ECCO to approach BCCAN to have a joint meeting with Gerard Martin, Member for Bathurst expressing concern about the continued dependence on coal for the new Mount Piper power station.

Rotary Enviro Expo: To take the format of a sustainability Week, running from Saturday September 11 to Sunday September 19.

Self Auditing: A reminder from Brian Phillips that if members wish to make a difference with their consumption of electricity, water and fuel for their cars they need to self audit in these areas. This includes getting meter readings for comparison and fuel statistics etc. Anyone who wishes to know more about this can contact Brian through the ECCO Gmail.

Lack of Council response: Concern was expressed about the lack of acknowledgement from council concerning correspondence directed to council staff, particularly on the issue of natural burials. To be followed up with council.
Nick King secretary

