

MINUTES OF THE ECCO MEETING, JANUARY 24th, 2007

PRESENT: Neil Jones, Phil Stephenson, Margaret Weaver, Peter West, Tony Smith, Jenny Smith, Susan Sanders, Stephen Nugent, Nick King, Paul Bertram, Anne Alford, Robert Alford, Carol Mlotowski, Colin Young.

APOLOGIES: Margie Lamerton, Michael Horth, Colin Foster, Jenny Vere, Fiona Hawke, David Hill, Steven Done, Jane Passer.

Minutes of November general meeting : Moved Stephen Nugent, seconded Susan Sanders, that the minutes of the November general meeting be accepted. Carried.

Committee meeting of the 17th January was cancelled due to the Ploughman's Lane protest meeting which was held on the same night.

TREASURER'S REPORT: \$ 2517 current balance. Moneys owing to members who initially outlaid funds for the establishment of ECCO Orange have been reimbursed. Membership now stands at 47. Moved Nick King, seconded Tony Smith that the treasurer's report be accepted. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Email from Liz Bastion offering her services concerning discussions on global warming.

Correspondence from Murray Fletcher representing the Orange Field Naturalists. Neil to address a meeting of the Orange Field Naturalists, who will be also holding their annual general meeting at 8pm on February 8th at the Orange Agricultural institute tea room. Discussion will include the role of the Field Naturalists and the role of ECCO.

Email from Jane Passer concerning the removal of native fauna from the Bloomfield site of the new hospital if habitat trees are removed for the proposed development.

February second. World Wetlands day. Neil has sent a message to the Central Western Daily to suggest an article on wetlands.

Landcare newsletter tabled. Suggested email to members.

PLOUGHMAN'S VALLEY: At the public meeting on January 17th concern was expressed about lack of communication and consultation between Council and the residents of Ploughman's Lane.

Residents at the Southern end of Ploughman's Lane below the railway line are concerned that the route has been changed. All maps available concerning the Southern Distributor do not feature Ploughman's Lane as a route. Residents are concerned about the degree of misinformation concerning the Southern Distributor and its proposed route.

Much confusion exists surrounding the reports and changes made concerning the Southern Distributor during 2002/2003. ECCO to seek more information concerning reports and decisions made about the above issue, particularly at that time.

Moved and seconded that Neil drafts a submission to council concerning the Southern Distributor by the close of business 25th January, 2007. The submission is to support the abandonment of the Southern Distributor, instead requesting that council concentrates on the completion of the Northern Bypass. (see website for details of the submission.)

Moved Tony Smith, seconded Margaret Weaver that the General Manager be contacted, requesting clarification of the council's position concerning Ploughman's Lane and the Southern Distributor. Carried.

ENVIRONMENT AWARDS 2007: New date set for working group to form a proposal to be endorsed at a future general meeting. Meeting to be held for those concerned at number 5 Kite Street , commencing 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 7th February.

PET EXPO: ECCO to man stall to hand out leaflets to promote responsible use of council land for dog walking.

Follow up with David Hill re. information about environmental issues relating to pet management. Pet Expo to be held at Orange Racecourse on March 25th. ECCO members will be required to assist.

Communication from Orange Field Naturalists re. Kinross application for extended rowing time on Spring Creek reservoir when it contains water once again. ECCO to support Orange Field Naturalists position concerning extension of rowing time on the above facility.

Proposed future discussion on Orange wetland areas and birdlife.

Report on shooting native birds in Wallace's Lane in December 2006. The local branch of the NSW Farmer's Association has condemned this practice and is working with the DPI on the use of non lethal methods of control.

FORMAT FOR MEETINGS: Committee meetings are to be held at Neil's place at times when necessary. General meetings to be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month as before. Special events and presentations to be held at other times when presenters are available.

Every second General Meeting to include a theme relating to an environmental issue.

ISSUES: Climate change
Sustainable urban development
Expansion of Cadia Valley operations.

The Dean of the Orange University campus has offered to provide facilities for presentations if required.

CADIA VALLEY: Nick to contact the environmental manager re. possibility of discussing Cadia Valley expansion at the next meeting of ECCO. (February 28th.)

Moved that the April meeting include a sustainable urban development theme.

SUB COMMITTEES: Waste watch subcommittee: Nick, Phil.

Water subcommittee: Colin Young, Tony Smith.

Working group for 2007 environmental awards to be chaired by Stephen Nugent.

Stephen to follow up with Liz Davis, Natural resources Officer re. Future presentation on water and the upper Macquarie catchment.

Possible connection with YAHOO communications,. To be discussed at the next general meeting. To be advised by Robert Alford.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY: March 8th. ECCO to register a site. ECCO to nominate the Bloomfield Park/ Gosling Creek area. Nick to contact Nigel Hobden to register the site for ECCO.

Next ELF garden working bee to be held Saturday, 10th February, for any ECCO member who would be available on that date. A condition of ECCO getting free access to the ELF for meetings is for ECCO members to volunteer to assist with the garden.

Meeting concluded at 9.40. Next ECCO general meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th February at the Environmental Learning Facility, commencing 7.30 pm.