

MINUTES OF ECCO GENERAL MEETING DATED 24TH SEPTEMBER, 2007

PRESENT: Phil Stephenson, Nick King, Stephen Nugent, Susan Sanders, Margaret Weaver, Colin Foster, Scott Andrew, Cathy Carroll, Keith Curry, Peter Baxter, Debra Brennan, John Ryan, Sandra Robinson, Owen Robinson, Jennifer Smith, Bernard Huxtable, David Williams, Michael Horth, John Ferguson, Megan Bryan, Trevor Drabsch, Anthony Davidson, Robert Alford, Ann Alford, Dave Manning, Jenny Manning, Don Saville, Mary Turner, Gwenda Garde, Margaret Carroll, Bill Carroll, Trevor Gazzard, Peter Hedberg, John Gill, Colin Young, James Young, Ron Booth.

APOLOGIES: Vicky Bray, Marlene Farrell, Tony Smith, Fiona Hawke, Jane Mason, Neil Jones.

CLIMATE CHANGE PRESENTATION

Introduction: By Stephen Nugent, Vice President of ECCO for Doctor Andrew Rawson, who is a climate change expert, currently working with the State Department of Environment and climate Change. Doctor Rawson's presentation included general facts and possible projections of the future impact of climate change, with particular reference to the implications of climate change for Orange and the surrounding rural and natural environment.

Doctor Rawson was thanked by Stephen at the conclusion of his presentation. Following Doctor Rawson's presentation, discussion ensued concerning the formation of a climate change subcommittee, which was supported by general consensus. It was decided that a climate action group be formed.

Members of the Climate Change Action Group: Debra Brennan, Cathy Carroll, Michael Horth, Megan Bryant, Stephen Nugent, Nick King, Susan Sanders.

GENERAL BUSINESS: Moved Susan Sanders, seconded Jenny Smith, the minutes of the meeting of August 22nd be accepted.

Business Arising: Stephen reminded members that there will be a Regional Environmental Groups conference on the 24th and 25th of November. Some ECCO members have indicated that they intend attending. Any other members are welcome to attend. Contact Neil Jones for details.

Treasurer's Report: ECCO has a current balance of \$ 2000. Membership continues to increase, currently at 70 members. Nick to arrange a mail out to all members concerning renewal of membership for the financial year 2007/08.

Movie Premier Fundraiser: There has been some discussion about a movie premier of "the 11th hour" which ECCO could possibly use as a fundraiser. At present little is known of this movie, whether it is coming to Orange or its suitability as a fundraiser. To be further investigated.

North Orange Development: Moved by David Williams to general acclaim that a vote of thanks be proposed to Neil Jones and ECCO members for the work done to assist council in making their decision about the location of the North Orange development site.

Moved Nick King that ECCO writes to Council congratulating them on their decision and expressing appreciation for the opportunity to contribute to public debate and the decision making process. Also a letter to council staff in appreciation of the work they have done to facilitate the process involved in making the above decision. ECCO to reiterate willingness to continue to work with council on environmental issues.

Local Environment Plan Submission: ECCO has been invited by council to make submissions for the local Environment plan for 2008. The development of a current Local Environment Plan is in its early stages, with submissions from the public being invited prior to the development of a draft plan which will then be available for public display and discussion. Interested members are invited to a meeting concerning the preparation of submissions.

Twin Creeks Botanic Garden: The Twin Creeks Botanic Garden is being set up by Rod Holcombe at the behest of Mr. and Ms Jeff Hort. The Botanic Garden is set in 22 acres in a valley behind Windera Estate on the confluence of two creeks. Much of the creek and wetland areas were planted out 22 months ago specifically designed to create a natural riparian landscape. The original plantings of most trees average 3 metres, with a healthy body of edging plants.

The Botanic Garden has been designed and developed by Mr Rod Holcombe, who offers a creek, river and wetland restoration service, which is available to mines, government and the wider public.

ECCO members are cordially invited to inspect this excellent example of natural restoration and have a cup of tea (bring your own cup) at 4.00 pm on Saturday, 3rd of November. Any enquiries, contact Rod on 63 600435.

Orange Botanic Gardens Site: ECCO to assist council in conceptualizing a plan for the botanic Gardens site. To be discussed further next meeting. Input from members appreciated.

ECCO Environment Awards: The ECCO Environment Awards ceremony to coincide with the Rotary Environmental Expo to be held in May, 2008. Orange Credit Union grant to be investigated (deadline for submission March 2008.) Nick to contact Credit Union for further details. Suggested by Phil Stephenson that a separate award category be created for innovative design for Botanic Gardens land.

Meeting closed 10 pm. Next meeting will be a general meeting to be held on the 24th of October at the Environmental Learning Facility (the ELF), at Orange Showground at 7.30 pm.