

Minutes of ECCO Meeting for March 28th, 2007.

Present: Neil Jones, Phil Stevenson, David Crooks, Margaret Weaver, David Phillips, Trevor Gazzard, Jane Paul, Stephen Nugent, Dick Neale, David Williams, Colin Young, Tony Smith, Susan Sanders, Robert Alford, Ann Alford, Jude Keogh, Patty Stedman, Trevor Stedman, Nick King.

Apologies: Mary Turner, Jenny Vere, Jenny Smith, Fiona Hawke, Murray Fletcher, Borrie Gartrell, Gaye Stuart Nairne, Colin Foster, Julie Buckley, Kerry Cochrane, Marlene Farrell, Janine Friedrich.

Minutes of ECCO meeting of January 28th, 2007. Moved Margaret Weaver, seconded Tony Smith, that the minutes of the ECCO meeting of the 28th of January be accepted. Carried.

Business Arising: Cadia Mine Presentation. Moved Nick, seconded Tony, that Colin Morris, Environmental Officer from Cadia Mines be forwarded a letter of thanks for his presentation on the 24th of February. Moved by Robert Alford that the suggestion that Cadia provide free of charge solar panels for those school who would like them as a tradeoff for the large amount of energy the mine uses in its processing . Carried.

An offer has been made by an environmental scientist to assist ECCO in formulating a framework for responding appropriately to issues relating to mining and the environment. An ECCO representative is to make contact with the environmental scientist on this issue and will report back to the next general meeting.

Correspondence: A letter has been received from council in response to ECCO's submission that the Northern Distributor be competed before any future work is to be considered on the Southern Distributor through Ploughman's Lane. Ploughman's Lane Action Group is maintaining a watching brief on this issue, with the support of ECCO. Ploughman's Lane Action Group to seek representation on the Traffic Committee to assist with the planning of traffic movements in the Southern area of Orange.

The decision of the meeting was that ECCO should respond to Council thanking them for the reply and making enquiries concerning Council's future plans for the Southern access to the proposed new hospital.

Spring Creek Rowing: ECCO to support the Orange Field Naturalist and Conservation Society in their submission that Kinross not extend their hours of rowing on Spring Creek Reservoir.

Climate Change: Elizabeth Bastion's presentation on climate change organized by Orange Rotary's environmental officer, David Williams a success. Moved by Stephen Nugent that a follow up forum be organised later in the year on climate change and

renewable energy with ECCO working with Rotary and the Council with emphasis on these issues at a local level.

Treasurer's Report: Balance currently at \$1986. Recent expenses include Web hosting expenses of \$133. 75, BAS statement \$260, Insurance \$300. Increase in membership of \$120 with six new members. Moved Tony Smith, seconded Nick King that the treasurer's report be accepted. Carried.

Invitation to the launch of the Green Corps project: Hinton Reserve Restoration: Thursday 29th March. Neil to attend.

Clean up Australia. A small group of ECCO volunteers removed litter from the Gosling Creek Reserve/ Bloomfield Park dog leash free area. The meeting agreed that ECCO should continue to regularly support such initiatives.

Meeting with Country Energy: A delegation from ECCO met with the Regional General Manager and the Public Affairs Senior Adviser of Country Energy as a result of ECCO's expressed concern about Country Energy's removal of trees in the process of installing a new power line. Country Energy is to invite a member of ECCO to be on the Country Energy Regional Advisory Board. Country Energy's Regional Manager has also agreed to address a future ECCO meeting on Country Energy's tree management policy.

It was the decision of the meeting that Country Energy's Regional Manger be approached along with the appropriate member of council staff to address a meeting of ECCO on the subject of tree management and preservation. Suggested meeting date being 2nd May. Stephen Nugent to contact Jeremy Buckingham re. the report from the committee on tree preservation.

Tree Removal from Escort Way: It was reported at the meeting that a number of trees previously planted by the Lion's Club had been removed from the verges of Escort Way, possibly as the result of recent roadworks. It was agreed that the General Manger of Orange City Council be contacted to seek explanation concerning the removal of trees, what threat exists to the remaining trees, and what plans the Council has for the restoration and establishment of trees in the above area.

Pet Expo: Members of ECCO worked with Orange City Council in the operation of a stall at the Pet Expo on the 25th March, at Orange Racecourse. The purpose of the stall was to provide information on environmentally responsible pet ownership and information about ECCO. Many thanks to David Hill for his pamphlet on environmentally responsible pet ownership.

Orange City Council's Proposed Site for A North Orange Shopping Precinct: Moved Stephen Nugent, seconded Nick King, that ECCO makes a strong public statement opposing the development proposed by Orange City Council. Carried unanimously. Moved that further discussion on how this issue will be addressed will take

place at a committee meeting to be convened on Sunday April 1st at 7.30 pm, with feedback provided for comments and suggestions by members.

Address by David Crooks, Community Environment Engagement Project Officer.

David described his role, which is to involve the community in on ground environmental works. This will involve organising volunteers to be engaged in environmental enhancement of designated focus sites, identified by interested groups. David to use ECCO's website to provide more information about his role and the sites where he is currently working with volunteer groups.

ECCO Environment Awards Proposal: Stephen Nugent, as head of this subcommittee reports that a proposal has been formulated by the subcommittee and will be circulated for comment by members. Any feedback to be directed to Stephen or Neil.

Proposal for an Education Subcommittee and an Energy Subcommittee. Members to give some thought to these two new committees. Volunteers to be called for to serve on these committees next general meeting.

Earth Hour: To be observed on March 31st. Members urged to support this environmental initiative.

Removal of trees on Section of Canobolas Road. ECCO to further investigate this report.

Date of April's ECCO meeting to be advised. Next General meeting will be on Wednesday, May 23rd.