

MINUTES OF ECCO MEETING APRIL 23RD 2008

PRESENT: Hans Grabow, Ruth Grabow, Tony Davidson, Jenny Smith, Margaret Weaver, Colin Foster, Rodney Holcombe, Neil Jones, Phil. Stephenson, Nick King, Stephen Nugent, Debra Brennan, Dick Neal

APOLOGIES: Robert Alford, Jenny Holdaway, David Williams, Brian Phillips, Tony Smith, Trevor Gazzard, Sandra Robinson, Owen Robinson, Peter West, Yvette Black, Mary Turner, Hilary Black, John Black

Draft Minutes of ECCO meeting March 26th 2008 Read by secretary, Nick King. Moved they be accepted by Stephen Nugent, seconded Margaret Weaver.

BUSINESS ARISING: Sustainable Housing: Neil Jones has information on sustainable housing and BASIX for those who are interested.

Communication with Orange City Council: ECCO has sent two letters to Orange City Council concerning communication on water and concerns about the decontamination of the old gasworks site. No replies have been forthcoming. Moved Jenny Smith, seconded Colin Foster that ECCO arranges a meeting with the General Manager and the Chief Engineer to discuss this matter. Carried.

Water restrictions: Orange is in danger of moving from level four to level five water restrictions. Information on water restrictions was communicated to the meeting. Mainly consists of bucket only on Sundays once water supply levels descend to below 30%. Last council meeting resolved that council will be producing a leaflet containing instructions for responsible use of grey water. This was done in response to Neil Jones addressing the council on this issue.

Daroo Urban Landcare: Colin Foster, the president of Daroo Urban Landcare Group gave notice of a working bee to be held at Wentworth reserve this coming Sunday, April 29th, commencing at 10am. Daroo working bees give members the opportunity to become involved in genuine hands on environmental restoration. Colin was also pleased to inform ECCO members that Wentworth Reserve has been allocated the status of Environmental Protection in the forthcoming LEP plan.

ECCO LEP submissions: Information concerning the result of ECCOs submissions for the Local Environment Plan submitted last year is available. To be discussed at a future meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Current ECCO balance \$3 125. 91 Income from 3 new members \$70. Expenses for \$355.00. Moved Phil Stephenson, seconded Stephen Nugent that the treasurer's report be accepted. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Sustainable housing Project Launch: Letter from Mick Fabar constructions inviting ECCO members to a launch of the above organizations sustainable housing project. Neil Jones to clarify details of the invitation and to communicate same to members.

Letter from Russel Turner: Copy of the letter sent to the Minister for Health from Russel Turner supporting ECCO's submission concerning the location of the Forensic Unit at Bloomfield. A new submission is required for this issue, being due on Monday, 1st May. Neil Jones to do this and to email members with new submission. ECCO to write to Russel Turner thanking him for his support.

OCAN REPORT: Local Produce: Debra Brennan, Stephen Nugent, Nick King and Jane Phillips handed out pamphlets containing information about the advantages of buying local produce to the patrons and stallholders at the Farmers' Market at the beginning of Food Week, Saturday 12th March.

Wind Farm Symposium: A symposium on windfarms was conducted in Bathurst recently, organised by the Bathurst climate action group BCAN. Colin Young attended and reported to the meeting. Colin reports that sites around Bathurst are being considered for the development of windfarms. Any members interested in obtaining more information contact ECCO through our postal or GMail addresses.

Next OCAN meeting: Next Ocan meeting will be held **next Wednesday, April 30th at 148 Matthews Avenue, commencing 7.30. All ECCO members welcome.**

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL RECREATIONAL NEEDS STUDY: Insite consultancy has surveyed the recreational needs of Orange, resulting in a report which recommends the selloff of 13 parks within the Orange City boundaries. Since the release of this report ECCO has organized an inspection of these parks, the issue has received significant media attention and a letterbox drop has been organized by ECCO member Peter West, directed at the residents surrounding the parks in question.

A draft submission responding to the parks section of the Insite report was prepared for the meeting, and was duly circulated and discussed. Comments and suggestions were duly noted. Neil Jones will complete the submission and circulate the completed work for comment.

Letterbox drop: ECCO member Steven West has gone to considerable trouble to compose a letter for each park, containing information about the park, its potential and information about what residents can do to make their feelings about a proposed sell off known to the Orange City Council. These letters will be distributed by Steven West, Yvette Black, Nick King, Debra Brennan, Neil Jones and Margaret Weaver. Many thanks to Steven for the hard work he has put into the letters. It was also agreed that the information about each park compiled by Steven be attached as an addendum to the ECCO submission on the parks.

Parks Petition: Hans Grabow and his wife Ruth have personally approached residents of many of the parks listed requesting their signatures on a petition about the parks which he will submit to council before the due date. To date Hans has 300 plus signatures. Thank you Hans.

Children and Parks: Suggested by Dick Neil that The perspective of children be considered concerning parks. Nick to informally approach school contacts on how this issue could be brought up for discussion and feedback from children.

ORANGE BASE HOSPITAL BLOOMFIELD SITE: Revised plans for the hospital are on display for the public . Revised development application submissions are sought, closing Monday, May 1st. The revised plans indicate no change in the location of the Forensic unit. Moved Nick King, Seconded Jenny Smith that ECCO make an amended submission to be delivered to Orange City Council on the due date. Carried.

CONCEPT PLAN FOR THE ORANGE BOTANIC GARDENS PRECINCT
Agreed that ECCO to convene a meeting of all stakeholders to discuss possible concepts for this area. Groups who may be interested include ECCO, the Friends of the Botanic Gardens, Waratahs Sporting Association, Daroo Urban Landcare Group, Orange Field Naturalists, Adventure Playground group.

These groups to be contacted directly, plus a public notice to be placed in the local paper closer to the date of meeting, which has been tentatively arranged for Sunday, May 18th at 2o'clock at the function centre at the Orange botanic Gardens. Further details of this meeting will be circulated when available.

If any members are aware of organizations who would be interested in having input at this meeting, please contact ECCO through email or PO Box.

WIRADJURI CULTURAL CENTRE: The development of this centre has been endorsed by Orange City Council. Sites for its development are being considered.

ECCO Letterhead and new membership form: Copies circulated among members. Agreed that fifty copies be printed.

Life Membership: Agreed that \$150 life membership be included as an option on the new membership form.

NOTICES OF MOTION: Calendar of events . Database of skills, expertise and resources among members of ECCO.

MAY MEETING: May 28th at the Gladstone Hotel, commencing 7.30. Mark Hodges from Orange City Council will be presenting on the subject of the Basix building code.

JUNE MEETING: Rodney Holcombe will be presenting on the subject of native landscape regeneration. Rodney is a very knowledgeable and experienced practitioner in this area and has published a book on native landscape regeneration.

Nick King, Secretary.