

MINUTES OF ECCO MEETING MARCH 26TH 2008
ECCO PO 1582
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PRESENT: Neil Jones, Margaret Weaver, Sandra Robinson, Nick king , Alan Robinson, Phil Stevenson, Jenny Smith, Tina Howie, John Howie, Peter West, Marlene Farrell, Tony Davidson, Robert Alford, Ann Alford, Stephen Nugent, Richard Neil, Colin Foster, Colin Young, Paul Mc Ilwraith, Susan Sanders, David Williams, Tony Smith, Norma Cother, Rick Cother, Tony Smith.

APOLOGIES: Mary Turner, John Gill, Carol Gill, Jane Paul, Jenny Holdaway, Janet Price, David Hill, Gwenda Garde, Kevin Mason, Fiona Hawke, Kerry Cochrane, Cilla Kinross

Minutes of the meeting of February 27th 2008 Moved Jenny Smith, Seconded Marlene Farrell that the minutes of the above date be accepted. Carried.

Business arising: Clean up Australia Day. Approximately 20 ECCO members participated in cleaning up a designated area of Blackman's Swamp Creek adjoining the netball courts. Plastic bottles were the main cause for concern.

Water Harvesting: Concern expressed by Robert Alford about the possibility that the Orange Gasworks site may have not been decontaminated, and the possible effect that may have on the quality of water harvested downstream in Blackman's Swamp creek. ECCO to follow up this concern.

Council communication to the public on water: Letter sent to the General Manager by ECCO requesting more frequent communication concerning water usage in Orange, No reply has been received. To be followed up.

Tree Removal at Bloomfield and the Forensic Mental Health Unit: Further clearing of trees is on hold pending further review. There are concerns about the accuracy of the fauna survey. The meeting resolved to contact the Health Department requesting another survey. If this is not forthcoming, ECCO to organise our own survey. ECCO's submission in this issue was circulated.

Treasurer's report: Presented by treasurer Phil Stevenson. ECCO's current balance is \$3 391. 71. Expenditure for the month of March consists of \$190 BAS, \$300 insurance. Moved Phil Stevenson, seconded Stephen Nugent that the treasurer's report be accepted. Carried.

Correspondence: Daroo Orange Urban Landcare Group. Letter tabled by Colin Foster, president of Orange Urban Landcare Group. This is a hands on volunteer group which is at present involved in the restoration of Wentworth Reserve. For further information, contact Colin Foster on 63 62 0338. ECCO members are welcome to join this group, which involves a working bee each month at Wentworth Reserve. Next working bee Sunday 31st March commencing 10 am.

Water Forum: Email from Bev Smiles, organizer of the water forum recently held in Orange. Communication concerning main discussion points and ideas for further action.

HUB: Email from Kerry Cochrane supporting opposition to Orange City Council's HUB proposal.

Botanic Gardens Precinct: Email from Friends of the Botanic Gardens agreeing to participate in a stakeholders' meeting concerning the above area.

Earth Hour: Media release from Nick Redmond expressing Orange City Council's support for Earth Hour.

Wind Farm Information: Bathurst Wind Farm forum to be conducted at Bathurst RSL on April 14th from 6.30-9.30pm. Admission \$2.00 coin donation. RSVP by 11th April. For further information contact Chris Seigert on 6334 2100 or email www.bccan.org.au

Minutes of combined BCCAN/OCAN meeting. Emailed by John Kellet, chair of BCCAN. To be circulated to ECCO members at a later date.

OCAN Report: OCAN/BCCAN meeting: A joint meeting between OCAN and BCCAN was conducted in Bathurst on March 18th. Issues discussed will be outlined in the meeting minutes to be circulated at a later date. The main issue discussed is the OCAN/BCCAN involvement in the Bathurst/ Orange Dubbo Climate Action Policy.

Earth Hour: OCAN has promoted community participation in Earth Hour by encouraging support from Council, the business community, the media and schools. ECCO members are encouraged to participate in Earth Hour by turning off lights and electrical appliances between the hours of 8 and 9pm this Saturday, March 29th. Members are also encouraged to log onto the official Earth Hour website www.earthhour.org to register their support.

Meeting Dates: The OCAN subcommittee originally met on the first Tuesday of each month. However this clashes with other meetings which are attended by ECCO members who would like to attend OCAN meetings. A new meeting date for April will be organised and communicated to ECCO members. All ECCO members are most welcome to attend OCAN meetings.

Regional Water forum report: Well attended with excellent presentation embracing a wide range of perspectives and stakeholders. Issues such as the need to address over allocation of water resources, the need for a Regional water plan, pollution in water harvesting, and the need for more staff with water expertise. The next issue is how the information obtained in the forum is to be effectively communicated to those in power.

Orange City Council recreational needs study: Copies of this study are available at the Orange City Council desk. ECCO members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with this document. The main issue of concern is the report's proposal that some parks be sold. Members are advised that the consultants responsible for the

report will be conducting a public meeting to answer questions and obtain community input on **Thursday, 10th April, at the Orange Environmental Learning Facility (ELF) commencing at 7.30. to register contact Sharon on 63 93 8022. Written submissions will be accepted up to 5pm on April 30th.**

The meeting resolved to conduct a group inspection of the parks proposed for sale in the report . This is to take place on **Sunday, 6th April, commencing at 2pm. Interested members to meet at ESSO park at the above time.**

Neil to meet with council representatives to find out what measures are being taken to inform the public about which parks are under consideration.

HUB: Motion proposed by Neil Jones that “ECCO reaffirms its current position in opposing the use of prime agricultural land for a waste management facility at the HUB (as indicated in its submission to the Department of Planning in November, 2007), and urges Orange City Council to seek an alternative site for such activity.” Moved Nick, Seconded Colin Young that this be motion be accepted as ECCO’s stand on the HUB issue. Carried.

The HUB Action Group will be holding a public meeting at the Molong Bowling Club on April 1st at 7.30 pm. All welcome.

ECCO’s role in Heritage Issues: Report from Phil on the Heritage Committee meeting March 26th. The heritage group is adopting a holistic approach involving the environment and the significance of the landscape in determining heritage value, thus making it possible for ECCO’s involvement in heritage issues.

Committee Vacancy: There are currently vacancies on ECCO’s committee for 2 members. ECCO members who are interested in joining our committee are encouraged to put their names forward at the next ECCO meeting.

Life Membership: Neil has put forward a notice of motion proposing a recommendation from ECCO’s committee that a life membership of \$150 be included as a membership option. To be dealt with at the next general meeting.

ECCO Letterhead: Stephen Nugent has designed a letterhead to be included used in future ECCO correspondence. Many thanks to Stephen for his work on this.

ECCO awards: Proposed different direction to be taken with the ECCO Environment Awards. To be discussed in greater depth at a later meeting.

Sustainable Environmental Housing: Susan Sanders to follow up information about the design and construction of a state of the art environmentally sustainable house.

Environmental Expo: David Williams reports that the proposed Environmental Expo to be organised by Rotary is on track.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of ECCO will be held on **Wednesday, April 23rd, at the Gladstone Hotel Function Room, Commencing at 7.30.** There will be a guest speaker presenting BASIX, and concepts associated with sustainable housing.

