

MINUTES OF ECCO GENERAL MEETING FEBRUARY 25th 2009

PRESENT: David Williams, Tony Smith, Jenny Smith, Brian Phillips, Susan Sanders, Phil. Stephenson, Haidee Nelson, Stephen Nugent, Colin Foster, Nick King

APOLOGIES: Sandra Robinson, Mary Turner, Cilla Kinross, Neil Jones, Fiona Hawke, Peter West, Yvette Black

TREASURER'S REPORT: Current expenditure: \$46.92 for stationary supplies and postage. Current balance \$3838. 17.

CORRESPONDENCE: Correspondence received from "Rising Tide" Climate Action Group from Newcastle, inviting ECCO members to participate in a blockade of the Newcastle Coal Port. Members wishing to participate contact Nick through the ECCO Gmail www.ecco.orange.com , so that transport can be coordinated.

Bubbles and Berries: Stephen to pass on a vote of thanks to Fiona Hawke and Caroline Trigg for their excellent work in organizing the Bubbles and Berries evening at the ELF on the Wednesday of the Slow Summer festival. Nick to pas on thanks to ECCO members Robin Thompson and her PCYC guitar players, and Corinne King and Stephen Whitehead who entertained guests on flute and guitar.

Electricity prices: Recently there have been anomalies in returns on prices received for feeding electricity generated using photovoltaic cells. Tony to investigate this.

Report on climate Action Summit. Nick submitted his report on the Climate Action Summit which was held in Canberra at the end of January. As the result of the report and discussion of recommendations the following motions were put and carried.

Moved Tony, seconded Nick that ECCO and OCAN become members of the national grassroots climate action network. Carried.

Moved Tony, seconded Nick that ECCO/OCAN agrees to support the outcomes of the climate action network. Carried.

Moved Phil, seconded Brian, that ECCO/OCAN agrees to participate in the national events organized by the network. Carried.

Moved Stephen, seconded Nick, that we develop a plan of action to raise community awareness, engage the community and engage our local, state and federal politicians on the issue of climate change and need for action. Carried.

There will be meetings at Nick's place (126 Coronation Drive) to discuss strategies for the last resolution at 7.30 on Tuesday 3rd and 10th of March. These strategies will be further discussed at the ECCO committee meeting on March 10th.

Clean up Australia Day: Peter West has done a fantastic job of organizing Clean up Australia Day, which will be on Sunday, March 1st. Please see emailed information for the sites and times of this event. Peter and Yvette have circulated information to local residents and posters have been placed in public spaces in the designated areas.

There will be an article appearing in the Central Western Daily about this coming event. Please turn up and support this worthy cause. The meeting proposed a vote of thanks to Peter, acknowledging the excellent work he has done organizing ECCO's involvement.

Local Environment Plan: Tony advised that Orange's Local Environment Plan will be available for public scrutiny mid April. As it is a lengthy document, ECCO plans to divide it into zones, for investigation, evaluation and comment. Further information and explanation will be provided by email to members. Members will be asked to volunteer to join a group which will investigate each zone and report back to ECCO with recommendations.

Earth Hour: Agreed by the meeting that Earth hour should be regarded as part of ECCO's program for community awareness raising on Climate Change, and as such be discussed at the abovementioned meetings on 3rd and 7th. All members are invited to attend, or submit ideas to the ECCO Gmail. Moved Tony, seconded Nick that Robertson Park be investigated as a possible venue for an Earth Hour party. Nick to contact council concerning the possibility of such an event.

ECCO Environment Awards: Winners for the Summer quarter of the ECCO environment Awards are Peter Kircher, who has won the ECCO Environment Award, and Keith Curry, who has one the OCAN Climate Action Award. Winners will be contacted and arrangements will be made for them to receive their awards, and an article concerning their contributions will appear in a future Earth First article.

Energy Champions: Neil Jones has recently attended a meeting of the country Energy Consultative Committee. Country Energy is very supportive of the Energy Champions proposal suggested by Brian Phillips, and indicated interest in funding such a proposal, however, ECCO would have to do the audits.

Country Energy was also interested in supporting the Park Care program, which has been earlier proposed by ECCO. These issues to be further discussed at the ECCO meeting on March 11th.

Enviro Expo: The Rotary Enviro Expo to be conducted this year over September 19th, 20th, 21st, 2009. David Williams, Rotary's environmental officer, has some inspiring suggestions for this event. If ECCO members have ideas concerning the Enviro Expo, contact David on 63 62 6755 or email david.williams@nsw.chariot.net.au

ECCO Website: Nick to contact Jeremy Buckingham to discuss rebuilding of website.

Next meetings: Climate Action planning: Meetings at Nick's place on Tuesdays 3rd and 10th of March (126 Coronation Drive) at 7.30pm. Anyone interested is welcome.

ECCO/OCAN committee meeting: 7.30pm, 6 Pasadena Place, Wednesday 11th March.

Public Meeting: Wednesday 25th March, Dr Andrew Rawson will be presenting on the issue of Climate Change.

Nick King Secretary

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