

ECCO GENERAL MEETING January 28, 2010

PRESENT: Simon Wright, Christine Wade, Nick King, Yvette Black, Peter West, Brian Phillips, Colin Foster, June Mason, Gabrielle Vidler, Branden Vidler, Helen Mc Pherson, Stuart Mc Pherson, Judy Hill, Bob Hill, Stephen Nugent, Bob Hoye, Susan Sanders, Beate Hahn

APOLOGIES: Phil Stephenson, Neil Jones, Tony Smith, Jenny Smith, Fiona Hawke

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD NOV 25, 2009. Moved Brian Phillips, seconded Stephen Nugent, that the minutes of the general ECCO meeting of the above date be accepted. Carried.

Business arising: The HUB: Nick reported that ECCO lodged a submission opposing the HUB Site for a waste management facility. The submission is available on the ECCO website. Neil Jones spoke to the ECCO submission at the public meeting held in Molong in early December. The Minister's decision to be announced early this year.

Walk against Warming: Nick reported that ECCO conducted the annual Walk against Warming on December 12. Approximately 100 supporters participated. ECCO wishes to thank the speakers- Jeremy Buckingham, Simon Wright, Isabel Higgins, Neil Jones, Matthew Davis and Freya Hawke for addressing the crowd. The date for Walk against Warming 2010 has yet to be set.

ECCO website: The ECCO website is up and running and attracting a lot of interest in the community. ECCO has received more enquiries from the public via Gmail and phone contact since the launch of the website. Thanks to Stephen Nugent for his great work in continuing to develop the website.

Carbon Conversations: To be continued in 2010, at a date and time to be determined.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Colin Foster, ECCO treasurer reports that ECCO's current balance is \$1675.00. Income through membership subs and theatre party proceeds: \$635.00. Expenses: \$490.95

Moved Peter West, seconded Nick King that the treasurer's report be accepted. Carried.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Theatre Party: Last Wednesday, January 20, ECCO hosted a theatre party to see the film "Bran Nue Dae" at the Odean Cinema. The evening was very successful, attracting 101 patrons. ECCO raised \$475.00. Many thanks to Neil Jones for organizing the evening, Tony Smith for organizing the catering and Phil Stephenson for providing the wine.

Cadia East: Members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the development consent conditions available on the Department of Planning website, (see below).

[http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/page/project-sectors/mining--petroleum---extractive-industries/mining/?action=view_job\\$job_id=41](http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/page/project-sectors/mining--petroleum---extractive-industries/mining/?action=view_job$job_id=41)

Nick King to summarise the conditions of consent. ECCO to determine its role in connection with the proposed development. Proposed actions to include:

- Submission concerning the development (available on website)
- Request for information from Agencies responsible for monitoring conditions of operation.
- Communication of information concerning conditions of operation to the public.
- Liaison with interested parties, i.e. local landholders: Susan Sanders to provide feedback from a meeting scheduled next week.
- BCANN: Bob Hill to liaise with BCANN concerning information and future action concerning the mine's energy use.
- Maintain communication with Cadia Mine staff through appropriate channels.

Issues: The mine's use of water, energy, the continued use of Oranges effluent, threats to local native wildlife, issues concerning future rehabilitation.

Clean up Australia Day: (March 7) Peter West and Yvette Black will organize ECCO's participation in Clean up Australia Day. They have met with representation from Orange City Council who have expressed interest in supporting the event, possibly with a barbecue for participants, and help with identification of clean up sites. Councillor Jason Hamling has been asked to be the guest speaker at the event. Publicity to be organized via OCC. Assistance required with distribution of advertising material and approaching organizations for support. Peter to meet with the Tidy Towns Committee, who will also be supporting Clean up Australia Day event. People who wish to be involved to contact ECCO through our Gmail address, or ring Peter on 0404 186 374.

Earth Hour (March 27). A meeting to discuss Earth Hour will be held at Nick's place, 126 Coronation Drive, commencing 7.30, next Wednesday, February 3. Those who are interested in raising awareness about climate change, and have ideas about how to participate in Earth Hour are most welcome to attend.

Orange Photo news Environment Column: Branden Vidler from Orange Photo news spoke to the meeting about his paper providing ECCO with an opportunity to contribute a column on environmental sustainability on a monthly basis. ECCO has enthusiastically accepted the offer. Further negotiations concerning the layout of the article are underway. Members are reminded that they are most welcome to contribute articles on environmental issues (and ideas) to be included in either the Orange Photo News or the Central Western Daily in the Earth First column. (500 word limit. Photos always welcome).

Additional methods of raising ECCO's profile were also put forward for future action: including development of a small flyer advertising ECCO to be distributed at such venues as the Farmers' market. Yvette Black to investigate the possibility of ECCO using face book.

Community Radio: ECCO has been offered the opportunity to become involved with Orange community Radio FM 107.5. Various options were considered. Currently no member of ECCO is able to devote sufficient time to a regular program, but regular appearances on existing FM 107.5 programs were considered. June Mason has

volunteered to liaise with Orange Community Radio on this issue. Yvette Black has volunteered to liaise with Neil Gill, of local commercial radio regarding ECCO getting exposure on his program.

Calendar of events 2010: Peter West presented a draft calendar of events for 2010. This will be posted in the ECCO website. Members are invited to comment and suggest additions.

ECCO Objectives: Peter West presented the ECCO objectives, a summary of past actions/projects related to those objectives, and possible actions for 2010 to meet the objectives. Also, there is a need to review the current objectives concerning their relevance and effectiveness in the current environment. ECCO is conscious of the need for membership input and the need to directly involve more of the membership in activities/projects/planning.

A brainstorming session was conducted concerning priority issues for ECCO to address during 2010. A draft will be made available to members in the coming weeks for consideration and comments. Members will also be asked to comment on issues for 2010 via an ECCO questionnaire to be organized in coming weeks the Committee.

Major issue: A topic of high priority and public concern is that of water in Orange, particularly groundwater. ECCO will be seeking information on this issue in the very near future.

Dates to remember:

Wednesday, February 3, 7.30pm at 126 Coronation Drive. Earth Hour event organization.

Wednesday, February 10. ECCO committee meeting. 7.30pm, 6 Pasadena Place.

Saturday, February 13. Community garden working bee.

Wednesday February 24. ECCO general meeting. 7.30pm ELF.

Nick King, Secretary.