

# **ECCO Orange Inc.**

Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Orange

## **President's Report to the Fourth Annual General Meeting 28 July, 2010.**

I have much pleasure in presenting the President's Report to the fourth Annual General Meeting of ECCO Orange Inc.

ECCO Orange was launched in April 2006, and for four years has worked extremely hard to achieve its aims as initially conceived with regard to environmental education, awareness and activism in the Orange community, with an increasing emphasis on climate action initiatives.

ECCO General Meetings continue to be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month, at the Environmental Learning Facility (ELF) at the Orange Showground, and Committee Meetings, open to all members, are held regularly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. Wherever possible General Meetings aim to address current and critical environmental issues, and when special guest speakers are invited, these meetings are widely promoted as a Public Meeting and usually attract up to 80 persons, while Committee Meetings spend considerable time on the planning of events, campaigns and submissions.

A summary of ECCO's main achievements and contributions during 2009/ 2010 reveals the extent of our commitment to fulfilling our aims, something all members can be very proud of.

### **Public Meetings:**

- Securing Orange's Water Future, Wayne Beattie, OCC and Jenny Bennett, CENTROC. 23<sup>rd</sup> September.
- Orange City Council's Water Strategy; Geoff Porter, OCC. 25<sup>th</sup> November.
- Shaping Orange's Future – Draft LEP ; David Waddell, OCC. 24<sup>th</sup> March
- Groundwater Forum; Staff from NSW Office of Water. 26<sup>th</sup> May.
- Recharging the Region Expo and the Shiny Halo Project; Lis Bastian. 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

### **Events:**

- National Tree Day, 2<sup>nd</sup> August.
- Orange Rotary Club Enviro Expo and Sustainable Homes and Gardens Tours, 18/19<sup>th</sup> September.
- HUB Site Inspection Bus Tour, 8<sup>th</sup> November.
- ECCO Website Launch, 9<sup>th</sup> December.
- Walk Against Warming, 12<sup>th</sup> December.
- Christmas Drinks, 13<sup>th</sup> December.
- Theatre Party to "Bran Nue Day", 20<sup>th</sup> January.
- Clean Up Australia Day, 7<sup>th</sup> March.
- Earth Hour, 27<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Submissions:**

- Orange City Council (OCC), Orange Showground Redevelopment.

- OCC, Summer Centre Redevelopment
- OCC, EIS Northern Distributor
- OCC, Natural Burials
- OCC, Container Deposit Legislation
- Dept of Planning, Cadia East Goldmine Environmental Assessment
- Dept of Planning, Orange Waste Management Project
- Dept of Planning, Planning Assessment Panel Hearing, Molong, on the Orange Waste Management Project
- Central West CMA, Significant Waterways and Catchments in Orange and District
- Harris Farm Markets, Coles and Woolworths regarding shopping trolleys.

**Community Education, Engagement and Support:**

- Glenroi Heights Public School Kitchen Garden Project, Weekly working bees
- Orange Community Permaculture Garden, Monthly working bees
- EarthFirst Weekly column in CWD, coordinated by Peter West
- ECCO and OCAN Quarterly Local Environment Awards
- Burrallgang Aboriginal Dance Group, financial support
- NetWaste, Waste to Art, award sponsorship
- ECCO representation on Orange City Council's Community Committees; Environmental Sustainability, Strategic Planning and Land Use, Tree Sustainability, Cultural Heritage, Tidy Towns, and Companion Animals.
- "State of the Environment" presentations by ECCO President to; Nashdale CWA, Uniting Church Womens Fellowship, University of 3<sup>rd</sup> Age, War Widows Association, and NSW Architects Registration Board.

**New Initiatives:**

A major objective achieved this year has been the increase in community education and communication. Central to this was the establishment of the ECCO website through the efforts of a small committee led by Stephen Nugent, with Stephen taking on the role of webmaster to ensure it is kept up-to-date.

- ECCO Website; [www.eccoorange.org.au](http://www.eccoorange.org.au).
- Environment Program, fortnightly at 4pm Tuesdays, on Orange Community Radio 107.5FM
- Green Drinks at the Union Bank, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month.
- ECCO Promotional Banner and Brochure

Throughout the year ECCO, through its Climate Action subcommittee (OCAN) led by Nick King, has been very proactive in organising a range of important environmental and **Climate Action Initiatives** including;

- Walk Against Warming,
- 100% Renewables Campaign and Survey.
- Earth Hour
- Attendance at the National Climate Change Conference, Canberra

The next twelve months will bring many challenges for ECCO and the Orange Community as we strive to protect the environment and encourage sustainable development and living.

The long overdue Orange Local Environment Plan, and the Master Plan for the Orange Showground Redevelopment will shortly be released for comment.

The possible sale of Dept of Health land at Bloomfield (the Bloomfield Bushland) and Community Land in Orange, are two significant issues that will emerge in the very near future, as will be the need to consider how best to protect established exotic and native trees in our urban environment.

A priority should also be to progress the Orange Neighbourhood ParkCare initiative.

One of our important challenges for 2010/2011 is to grow our membership and financial base, and to involve more members, and the broader Orange Community in our activities.

The achievements of ECCO and OCAN are due in no small part to the untiring efforts and support of members, particularly at critical times when major issues have emerged requiring preparation of major submissions, in particular, the Orange Waste Management Project, and the Cadia East Goldmine Environmental Assessment.

The ECCO Committee of Peter West, Stephen Nugent, Nick King, Phil Stevenson, Jen (and Tony) Smith, Susan Sanders, Col Foster, Brian Phillips and Yvette Black, and the OCAN subcommittee of Nick King, Stephen Nugent and Brian Phillips, have met monthly throughout the year between General Meetings and deserve special acknowledgement.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members, supporters and friends who have contributed to the success of ECCO this year. It has been a great honour for me to have served as President of an organization with so many passionate, committed, and wonderful people.

Neil Jones  
President.

28 July, 2010