

Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance Inc

Board meeting – MINUTES

Tuesday 15 September, 6-7pm

Via zoom



**Present:** Amanda Herral, Avril Lockton, Christine Aus, Gabrielle Clappison, Jean McGarry, Mark Howells, Nico Marcar, Robyn Charlton, Samantha Doove, Steve Dewar

**Apologies:**

### **Welcome from Chair, and acknowledgement of Country**

Robyn welcomed everyone to the meeting.

We would like to acknowledge the Awabakal people who are the traditional custodians of the land and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. We extend respects to other Aboriginal people present.

### **Business arising from August meeting:**

- Clean Up – Reference to styrofoam being difficult to pick up once it is littered. Note that styrofoam can be dropped off and recycled for free at the Awaba recycling centre, <https://www.lakemac.com.au/For-residents/Waste-and-recycling/Other-household-waste/Polystyrene>.

### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

#### **1. Plastic Free Cafes**

An extremely difficult grant to administrate. Final report was submitted in July, including long report and 6 litter surveys. EPA feedback from a recent online meeting has asked to amend the report, do 2 more litter surveys, send in a new invoice for a second campaign.

Steve is planning to purchase about 300 better collapsible reusable coffee cups. About \$3,500 left, get cafes back on board for reusables again in November, do more publicity. Especially education that reusables are safe to use in covid environment, including contactless coffees and other takeaway items. Don't want to go backwards with the plastic free message.

Would like to include cafes beyond Toronto/Warriors Bay in November eg Charlestown, Marks Pt, Rathmines etc? Would be great to have assistance from around the city to identify cafes that are keen to participate. Note Gab has approached Bunnings, and they are not interested as they have their own branded cups.

### **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

#### **2. August Treasurer's Report**

Attached below.

Also noted that there is \$127.30 remaining in the Commonwealth Bank account.  
RESOLUTION: The board agreed to close down the Commonwealth Bank account, and transfer those remaining funds to the new Greater account.

Moved: Jean

Seconded: Steve

Carried.

### 3. August Strategy update

Progress to 31 August was circulated to board members, and available to members on request.

### 4. Risk assessments

- **Cardiff Area SNG – monthly meetings**  
Risk assessment for monthly meetings with consideration of covid. Circulated and approved via email.
- **Cardiff Area SNG – Boomerang Bag workshops**  
Risk assessment for regular workshops with consideration of covid. Circulated and approved via email. Note that workshops have not yet re-commenced, but the group are exploring and planning for when they can.

### 5. Reports

- **Desalination plant exhibition**  
Hunter Water is progressing with the design and planning approvals for the proposed Drought Response Desalination Plant at Belmont. Their Submission Response and Environmental Impact Assessment Amendment Report has been placed on public exhibition by Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for 28 days. They have sent a letter to inform the Alliance of the public exhibition, and invitation to attend an online information session.  
No interest to complete a submission at this stage, but circulate to SN network for info.  
ACTION: Rachele to circulate to SN network for info.
- **Active Transport Strategy – engagement with SN network**  
Online meeting scheduled for 17 September, 5.30pm.  
Each group invited to nominate 1-2 group members to attend.  
Meeting will introduce background, and overview of key Strategy elements, and seek reflection on the prioritisation principles and methodology so far.
- **Waste to Art**  
30 artworks registered so far. Registrations close 30 September, and on exhibition from 28 October.  
Have confirmed we won't have an opening night event. Will instead aim to interview artists and create some kind of 'virtual tour'.  
More info at <http://www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/waste-to-art.html>.
- **School activities**  
SN in schools brochure has been drafted and sent for graphic design.  
School Resources Register has been set up:  
[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1T12A0f6htM9P8ou6wYOMuOdixcjet-wqJm-F1y\\_Siel/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1T12A0f6htM9P8ou6wYOMuOdixcjet-wqJm-F1y_Siel/edit?usp=sharing) SN members can add additional resources and contacts as we go.

- **Toronto does Planet A!**

TASNG assisted Coal Pt Public School do Walk to School Day on Friday 10 September. 25 parents and children participated. Used bushland walking track and stopped for nature observation along the way. Parents are organising to run regular walks on a Friday. Parents have set up their own Facebook group.

Also, depending on Covid19 restrictions, we will run a booth at Toronto shops in November, to encourage residents to cut down on energy and water usage etc as per the TV show "Fight for Planet A". Waiting for shopping centres to allow booths again.

- **Valentine SNG update**

After deciding to disband last month, an enquiry from a new resident has reinitiated interest in continuing the group. The new resident got in contact after seeing publicity from the August clean up event, and is very passionate and experienced in lots of aspects of sustainability and community engagement.

- **SN Network Gathering**

Gathering went well at end of August. 12 attendees. Included local group reports and discussion of ReLeaf and Plastic Free projects. Notes were circulated to the network.

- **Green burials and cemeteries**

Meeting on 8 Sep with Council Cemeteries Officer. Discussed variety of burial alternatives and current limited options in Lake Mac. Identified need for wider awareness of alternatives, current options, and need for people of all ages to plan for and talk about death arrangements with family.

General agreement to progress as an education / awareness campaign. Council to generate a fact sheet about current options. Explore ideas about cemetery walk and talks and litter picking in Lake Mac. Rachele to circulate meeting notes and additional resources to network.

- **Pamper Care Project**

Networking continues with Woodrising Neighbourhood Centre and Oz Harvest. Fresh food going to areas including Windale, Warners Bay, Speers Point, Holmesville, Killingworth, Blackalls Park and Dora Creek. Personal care items and medical equipment delivered to Dora Creek.

- **ReLeaf Lake Mac**

Progress is being made. Communicating with LMCC on a number levels. The ReLeaf Lake Mac Facebook page is coming on nicely. A couple of "Albums" up.

<https://www.facebook.com/releaflakemac>.

And webpage at <https://www.releaflakemac.org.au/>.

This month, Robyn will be in "Adelaide" attending the 21st Urban Tree Festival.

Landcare members and Trees in Newcastle are both keen to be involved.

Question around annual cost of hosting ReLeaf website (\$180pa?) – can we use Alliance funds to reimburse? What about ongoing annual cost?

The board agreed to reimburse Jonathan for the initial cost of ReLeaf website hosting. Carried.

- **Centennial Coal submissions**  
 The Exhibition has closed. The Myuna application received 85 submissions. Most objected. Greg Piper and LMCC objected.  
 The Northern Coal Logistics application received 23 submissions. Again, most objected including Greg Piper and LMCC.  
<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/35026>  
<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/35031>
- **Coal Ash Dam parliamentary enquiry** – Steve attending 6 October at Council building. He will circulate his submission. Steve’s role to support Lyn and WBASNG submissions.
- **2020 Annual Report**  
 Running a bit late with this but aiming to complete asap.
- **Community Environment Grants**  
 Applications due this Monday 21 September  
 NatureScape project – refine the project better, and seek commitment from schools so will hold off until next round.  
 Dora Creek interpretive signage at Avondale College, Cooranbong. Great biodiversity values on the site. Jason Morton (Science lecturer) initiated, and will contribute to content. Will also hold off until next round.
- **Charlestown Pool community garden**  
 Struggling with participation of volunteers at the garden. Started with about 7-8 volunteers, but down to about 4. Mostly due to the restriction from Council Covid-safe and the inability to arrange any larger working bee or celebration.  
 Council is currently undertaking preliminary surveying to determine whether the area where the garden is will be suitable for a new learn to swim pool.  
 We will probably be able to keep the garden alive through summer but if there is any construction we will close down. I don't think there is interest in creating a garden in another site on pool grounds. The attraction of the current location is that it is visible to all entrants to the pool and hence the conversations we have had.
- **Redhead EnergyWave**  
 Project is progressing with the September Redhead Village Newsletter promoting stories from local businesses and households who are benefitting from solar. The face to face expo originally planned is on hold for now because of covid restrictions. Continuing to progress a survey and further promotions of GreenPower, energy providers and government incentives.
- **BMX tracks and bushland in Redhead**  
 The Redhead SN has noted significant damage to local bushland areas recently to build bike tracks and jumps, and raised the need for kids to have a sanctioned place to build and ride their bikes where it doesn’t create environmental damage.  
 They have been in contact with Councillors and Council staff to seek a solution. More info in the Redhead Village newsletter,  
<https://sustainablethead.files.wordpress.com/2020/09/rsng-newsletter-no32-september-2020.pdf>

In Warners Bay the Landcare group worked with the Rangers to put in barriers etc, and worked around existing constructions.

- **Volunteer grants**

Couple of ideas for equipment needs: Litter pickers and Covid safe gear – extra gloves, sanitiser, information

ACTION: Rachele send Chris the paperwork to judge how involved the grant process is.

## **6. Correspondence (19 August - 2020)**

- Response to enquiry from Five Bays SNG to confirm that Council staff are initiating work on a Verge Planting Policy
- Sustainable Neighbourhood News, 20 August
- Alliance objections to Centennial Coal applications were submitted.
- Notes from SN Catch Up event circulated to SN network
- Invitation to meeting about Green burials and cemeteries, circulated to SN network. Meeting notes circulated to attendees.
- Request from Hunter Community Environment Centre to share the Coal Ash Community Alliance event about Coal Ash parliamentary hearings. Sent to SN Key contacts
- 2020 Supplementary Volunteer Grants round – information sent to key contacts
- Draft schools brochure circulated to project volunteers
- Boomerang Alliance – information about their SUPtember campaign about single use plastics
- Boomerang Alliance newsletter September 2020
- Request from Clear Sky Australia, disability service provider, to seek volunteer opportunities for their small groups. Sent to SN key contacts.
- Advice that Alliance included in semi finals for the NSW/ACT Regional Achievement and Community Awards
- Invitation to meeting about Council's Walking Cycling and Better Streets Strategy. Sent to SN Key Contacts.
- Notice from Hunter Water regarding proposed Drought Response Desalination Plant at Belmont – Submission response and EIA amendment report is currently on exhibition. Online information sessions available by arrangement.
- Invitation to the upcoming Coastal Zone Management Committee meeting for 1 October and 3 December.

**Meeting closed 7:04pm**

**LAKE MACQUARIE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS ALLIANCE**

**GENERAL MEETING**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**1 August to 31 August, 2020.**



Account 724181724 with Greater Bank, Charlestown Branch.

**Balance** **\$ 15,655.87 CR**

**RECEIPTS**

\$ NIL

**Total Income** **\$ NIL**

**EXPENDITURE**

18 Aug 2020 WdlThpr 09532861 I'net Pol'ter Proj  
J. McGrath \$ 132.75

**Total Expenditure** **\$ 132.75**

**BALANCE** **\$ 15,523.12 CR**

This is a true statement of accounts for the Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhoods Alliance for the period 1 August, to 31 August 2020.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Name Jean McGarry

Title Hon Treasurer

Date 13 September, 2020.

**NOTE**

**Balance**

**CBA** **127.30**

**GrtrB** **15,523.12**

**Balance** **\$ 15,650.42**