

Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance Inc

Board meeting – MINUTES

Tuesday 16 June, 6-7pm

via zoom



Welcome from Chair, and acknowledgement of Country (1min) – Robyn

- Present: Nico Marcar, Avril Lockton, Mark Howells, Amanda Herrald, Gabrielle Clappison, Christine Aus, Samantha Doove, Robyn Charlton, Steve Dewar, Jean McGarry, Dylan Shoesmith (YAC), Rachelle McConville (Council)
- Robyn presented an Acknowledgement of Country. We would like to acknowledge the Awabakal people who are the traditional custodians of this land. We would also like to pay respect to Elders both past and present of the Awabakal nation and extend that respect to other Aboriginal people present.
- **Check in** - 1min each – personal check in
- **Reminder re meeting procedures**
 - Process becomes especially important for online meetings
 - Only one person speaking at a time. Take direction from the Chair.
 - Be present. Please avoid multitasking during the meeting
 - Be aware of background noise. You can mute yourself to avoid disrupting the meeting
 - Let's keep to strict start and end times

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Working with schools

Welcome Dylan Shoesmith to the meeting. Dylan is a representative from Council's Youth Advisory Committee YAC. Some discussion around background and possibilities:

- We, especially through Repair Café, have received a number of requests from schools about running in-school activities for them – eg in upcycling, textile repair, Repair Café.
- Alliance is keen to engage with young people, and to help fill the gap in particular to engage with high school students.
- Steve and Colin have presented school talks previously.
- All volunteers visiting schools will need Working with Children Checks completed.
- Possible activities could include gardening, upcycling (eg make rag rugs), National Tree Day, Clean Up activities, Competitions.
- Could engage a teacher to provide links of how it could potentially fit in to curriculum. Eg civic participation; talks about ways of getting involved in local decision making, talks about some local issues eg coal ash dams, talks about how to write a letter and works through a letter writing process for a cause they think is important. potential links for persuasive writing, geography, government studies.
- Regarding growing youth participation in SN network in general - Is more direct action more preferable to the kinds of activities that we offer? → probably a spectrum of involvement and interest in different aspects of sustainability. Likely to be young people interested in SN, but need to get the message out there to the right demographic. Schools are likely a good place to start.

- YAC specialise in civic participation and they are definitely keen to work together.
- Could fit lots of sustainability topics into high school Geography curriculum.
- Could look at organising an event in collaboration with YAC.
- Age group at YAC from 12-24.

ACTIONS:

- Rachelle - Seek options from SN volunteers about what kinds of activities / frequency they might be able to offer.
- Generate a couple of proposals to take to a future YAC meeting.
- Rachelle – Ask Pam (Council) about potential for SN volunteers to assist with PS activities.
- YAC and SN (Alliance and local groups) - Cross promotions on social media generally

2. Covid-19 Safe Planning

A general Covid-19 safe plan and updated risk assessment form was circulated to board members, to guide transition back to face to face activities. Seeking feedback on the measures suggested.

Intend to circulate to all groups for comment, and to require groups to complete a new risk assessment for any face to face activities, including resuming monthly meetings. Will request each group completes a one-off risk assessment that covers their ongoing group meetings.

General agreement with the measures suggested. Noted that the wording in the risk assessment table is confusing. Needs to be updated to match the existing format better.

Is there infection training available / suitable for SN volunteers to complete?

ACTIONS:

- Rachelle - Update risk prompts to match the risk format better, and investigate infection training.
- Send to SN network for comment / to use for future activities.

3. More walking and Cycling/less traffic

It is obvious that we might be returning to our old ways after lockdown. Proposal to run an Alliance publicity campaign to encourage people to use their cars less. Suggested points for a media release:

1. Encourage school students to walk/cycle to school
2. Encourage workers to arrange to work from home at least one or two days a week.
3. Encourage businesses to stagger their working hours to avoid congestion
4. Work with private bus operators to suggest bus routes/connections to get people out of their cars.
5. Suggest to Council new parking areas outside urban centres
6. To not only encourage new shared pathways, but have them near where people live and available to residents to walk/cycle to shops.

Consider the tone of our communications, and how to do this without being 'all-knowing'? How to work with businesses, rather than preach to them. Sell the benefits of doing these things. Eg saving an hour a day instead of commuting. Less stress and less traffic.

Promote existing walk to school days and similar programs.

ACTIONS:

- Steve – draft media release / messages and circulate to board.

4. Draft sponsorship package

Proposed Sponsorship / Business Membership opportunities. A couple of strategies to consider.

1. A corporate MEMBERSHIP- where for \$100 for example, you can be a corporate member of the Alliance. The business must be aligned/agree to our ethos of promoting sustainability in Lake Mac. You can display a sticker at the business, promote yourself as being a member, have advanced notice of any project that they may be able to be involved in (eg coffee cups), listed as a member on our site, perhaps we also host an annual business sustainability networking event and they also receive a ticket to this. They can feed to us any sustainability initiatives they have, and we can share on social media etc etc.
The idea of this would be to have MORE businesses involved/aligned with the Alliance, and of course to gain some income. A large corporate sponsorship will most likely be limited to larger businesses, excluding many small businesses in the area from being involved.
2. A tiered corporate SPONSORSHIP - a limited opportunity where for \$X, you become a sponsor of the Alliance. Your name is included on a banner at all events, you are highlighted on our website, volunteering opportunities, opportunity to sponsor specific Alliance events, major sponsor naming rights of our annual corporate networking event. etc etc.

Key is to start developing some of these business relationships in the community. It is unlikely that we will attract a major sponsor simply by sending out a package to them. We need to go to Chamber of Commerce meetings, networking events, or host one, cold call, approach businesses that we have been associated with thus far (eg coffee cup businesses).

Also need to diversify income sources.

General agreement with the corporate membership approach.

ACTIONS:

- Sam to go ahead and develop this idea for further discussion.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. May Treasurer's Report

Attached below.

2. May Strategy Update

Circulated via email.

3. Reports

- **Citywide clean up**
 - Cardiff Area – Keen to set up a site

- Five Bays – Around the shore line of Five Bays Neighbourhood Area (TBC)
 - Warners Bay Area – Site registered along Cockle Creek
 - Any other group with sites lined up?
- **Alliance Zoom membership**
Options for accessing paid Zoom accounts.
Alliance has a paid Zoom account (\$230 pa), but options for sharing or adding more users are limited. To allow alternate meeting hosts or account users, they need to also be licensed users (an additional \$230 pa per user).
Microsoft Teams may be an alternative? <https://www.microsoft.com/en-au/microsoft-365/microsoft-teams/free>
 - **Pamper Care Project**
Big thank you to Steve for getting the media releases out for Pamper Care. It is greatly appreciated. We are still basically assisting a couple of families at the moment. We have had lots of donations given. As Woodrising Neighbourhood Centre begins to resume normal activities, it will be interesting to see who comes forward for assistance.
 - **Coal Ash Dam Inquiry**
Likely rescheduled to August. Alliance invited to send a representative. Lyn Fraser who prepared the Alliance's submission is already appearing on behalf of another group. Steve volunteered to appear on Alliance's behalf.
 - **Cardiff Pollinator Project**
Seeking a grant extension to defer plantings until next year. They had a lot planned, and were ready to go, but the drought, extreme summer, and then covid meant they had to stop all activities.
 - **Waste to Art**
Exhibition dates slightly updated to start 28 October. Updated details at <http://www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/waste-to-art.html>
 - **Plastic Free Cafes**
Steve is preparing a final report on the grant for the reusable coffee cup campaign, following a final litter count. This means we should be able to get the balance of the money which should leave about \$4,000 left. Considering continuing with a different reusable cup when cafes feel ok again to deal with reusable coffee cups.
We could target areas other than Warners Bay and Toronto. I would like to suggest cafes in Rathmines, Wangi Wangi, Speers Pt Sals Cafe, Sculpture Cafe at MAC, maybe Bunnings, and the cafe Chris suggested at Charlestown.
Seeking other suggestions for cafes where the reusable coffee cup message and reducing plastics generally would be good to approach to maximise our message.
 - **Volunteer profiles**
Still a few to be published,
<http://www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/superstars.html>. Happy to do more if people put their hands up. Aiming to use these for wider media attention in coming months.
 - **Training**

Digital Storytelling and Organising and Advocacy courses are both underway.

- **Webinar summary - Australian Marine Conservation Society on Plastics, 20 May - Steve**
We need to keep the pressure on calling for a ban on the 10 worst plastics as there has been a spike in takeaway plastic containers and plastic coffee cups.
10 worst plastics affecting our marine and bird life: 1. Plastic bags 2. Plastic cutlery 3. Straws/stirrers. 10 million a day 4. Plastic fruit/veggie bags 5. Balloons and their strings 6. Plastic bottles and their lids 7. Takeaway containers 8. Polystyrene products 9. Plastic lined coffee cups and lids 10. Disposable plastic cups, plates and bowls.
Attendees mentioned micro plastics and plastic disposable gloves as well!

- **Webinar summary - Diversify your fundraising - 7 pillars to prop up your fundraising strategy – Gab**

Key points:

- Most Non for Profits have mainly 2 forms of income (members & grants), that needs to expand to at least 5 forms of income to remain viable.
- Funding Centre - Smarty Grants App could be a valuable resource for us.
- Give Now Platform - www.givenow.com.au/search. Maybe worth listing the Alliance on there.
- Do we have a DONATE NOW button on our website? Might be worth thinking about that.

[Webinar recording](#)

- **Hunter Renewable Webinar**

Please see the slides and recording of the event for further information.

<https://vimeo.com/427217766>

- Dr Bec Colvin of ANU - social research insights into attitudes and perceptions about the future of the Hunter.
Surveyed 45 people in the area about it's future.
Coal was prominent and strongly argued on both sides. People want the future to be lead from the government but to be transparent and be part of the process.
- Dr Dominique Hes & Sam Mella, from Beyond Zero Emissions. preview of the One Million Jobs report. [You can view their slides here.](#)
Diversifying the Hunter.
Land use Jobs – the Healing Story. 3,000 jobs
Green Steel – Grattan report 2020.
Zero Emissions Buses, services 8000 electric busses for tender. Mining industry can diversify to complete this.
- Joe James, Hunter Joint Organisation - Update on the Hunter 2050 Foundation which is being established to lead economic diversification and transformation. [Read more about the Foundation here.](#)
Collaboration of the Hunter Councils. 10 members, from Midcoast, Muswellbrook, Lake Mac.
- Steve Murphy from AMWU - insights into the history and future of working people in the region.
Discussed some the transitioning from Latrobe Valley.

- **Beyond Zero Emissions – One Million Jobs Plan,**
 - More info about the plan here: <https://bze.org.au/the-million-jobs-plan/>
 - Webinar summary 16 June – thanks Steve:
 - (Already NT 10 GW Plan and Hunter Valley Diversification Plan)
 - This is a plan to create Zero Energy Buildings using renewables etc to cut down on 25% of Australia’s emissions to create 250,000 jobs initially. Buildings would be 7.5 energy rating, could be virtual power plants, and also expand to non-residential retrofits, Plan to be later released. This could include solar, batteries, insulation, energy efficiency, smart energy systems. Already happening USA and Europe. Providing jobs stimulus.
 - 1. New Social Housing Energy Efficiency... 150,000 over 5 years about 100,000 jobs for backlog and 100,000 homeless. Net zero emissions/gas free.
 - 2. Retrofit existing houses..2.5 million..replacing gas, placing solar, batteries. Especially mandated incentives for rental and existing social houses. Use of Managed Energy Services Agreement monthly fee to fund it as in Europe. Cost about \$30,000 agreement funded and loans.
 - 3. Need for work on building stock and workers training for safety. Need for agreement to state improvements for onsale of houses. Stabilisation of housing prices and electricity grid. Pensioners need help with retrofits. Over time, people better off financially, living in healthier homes and less community problems.

4. **Correspondence (15 May – 11 June)**

- Invoice for Community Harmony Initiative (Picnic in the Park) – Community Event Grant resent to Council for payment.
- Community Fundraising webinar opportunity – sent to key contacts
- Invitation to Community Organising and Advocacy training – sent to key contacts and SN committee members
- Various correspondence with The Change Agency regarding Community Organising and Advocacy training
- Pamper Care Project media release sent to various media outlets
- Covid update and planning for a citywide Clean Up event – sent to key contacts
- ReLeaf grant unsuccessful – notification from IRCCC grant administrators
- Notification from Hunter Water regarding EIS amendment to increase capacity of Belmont Desalination Plant from 15ML/day to 30ML/day – sent to board members
- Various correspondence regarding Alliance representative for Coal Ash Inquiry
- Invitation to Council’s Coastal Zone Management Committee zoom meeting, and workshop to develop the Coastal Management Program
- Invitation to join Council’s Coastal Management Program Forum 17 June – sent to key contacts.

**LAKE MACQUARIE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS ALLIANCE
GENERAL MEETING**

TREASURER'S REPORT

1 May to 31 May, 2020.

Account 724181724 with Greater Bank, Charlestown Branch.



Balance **\$ 10,32.63 CR**

RECEIPTS

02 May 2020 Osko B. Adamtwaite PCare	\$ 500.00
04 May 2020 EFT W Harrison PCare	100.00
08 May 2020 J.Smith PCare	5.00
14 May 2020 G. Piper PCare	500.00
21 May 2020 LMCC12789 – Community Event Grant (Picnic in the Park)	2,000.00
Total Income	\$ 3,105.00

EXPENDITURE

12 May 2020 14173013 P Care	200.00
Total Expenditure	\$ 200.00

BALANCE **\$ 13,234.63 CR**

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

Signed _____

Name Jean McGarry

Title Hon Treasurer

Date 10 June, 2020.

NOTE

Balance

CBA **127.30**

GrtrB **13,234.63**

Balance **\$ 13,361.93**