

Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance Inc

Board meeting – MINUTES

Tuesday 19 May, 6-7pm

Online via zoom



PRESENT: Robyn, Sam, Mark, Nico, Christine, Amanda, Stephen, Gab, Avril

APOLOGIES: Jean – had difficulty accessing the meeting

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

Robyn acknowledged the Awabakal people, the traditional custodians of the land. We pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging.

- **Check in** - 1min each – personal check in. All good
- **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. Citywide Clean Up (10 min)

Suggestion to hold citywide clean up as promotional event, and opportunity for small gatherings now available. Outdoor gatherings up to 10 people are allowed from Friday 15 May. Draft plan was circulated.

General consensus that 30 May is too soon. Discussion included:

- We are currently at Step 1, restricted to 10 people per site.
(<https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/05/3-step-framework-for-a-covidsafe-australia-3-step-framework-for-a-covidsafe-australia.pdf>)
- Important objective is as a promotional activity, and to promote wide participation in the clean up. Better to wait until we can have slightly larger groups (up to 20) to achieve this objective.
- Opportunity for local media, mental health, keeping some momentum, good for us and the environment
- Follow Council advice as to what is officially allowed at the time.
- How much rubbish is actually around? (Plenty at Cockle Creek. WBASNG have site lined up there)
- Alternative option: Virtual clean up? Do a clean up with small group of SNG members / friends and post on social media. Possible prelude to a main event later

Resolution:

- Agreed that we should wait until NSW is on Stage 2 – with up to 20 people allowed at an outdoor gathering.
- Can promote as an 'End of Iso' clean up party.
- Want to see a new way coming out of covid 19 – anti plastic / litter / fast food.

- Encourage groups to start planning now – ie Identify sites and pick up point. Complete Eco Angel risk assessments. Can also start preparing media and promo messages.
- Can still encourage plogging eg like Clean Up Aust current promo through social media etc.

2. **General advice for SN groups re gradual lift of COVID restrictions, as of 15 May (10 min)**

See step 1 in Aust Gov framework (link above), also current info at:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/what-you-can-and-cant-do-under-rules>.

Agreed on these updated guidelines to communicate to all groups:

- Current Step 1 doesn't change our previous guidelines for SNGs.
- Maintain recommendations for online meetings only.
- Note that many of our usual meeting venues (eg community halls) are still required to be closed, or have strict restrictions on the number of people (eg clubs)
- Reminder to check in on those who you haven't been able to keep in touch with online. Try to include them in your group still via email or a phone call. Keep sending minutes, newsletters, social media out so people know what's going on.
- Outdoor gatherings up to 10 people allowed. Remind groups to seek advice and approval from board if they are considering any events or projects.
- Note that all physical distancing and hygiene practices still apply in all circumstances.
- Intend to remain within these guidelines until Stage 2 is announced in NSW.

3. **Pamper Care publicity during Covid 19 crisis (10 min)**

Lots of people are slipping through the cracks of Jobkeeper payments etc, and will continue to need assistance. The impacts of losing work will be long lasting. Just over \$1000 currently held on behalf of Pamper Care Project – thank you to kind donators.

Have also donated adolescent education kits to Blackalls Park Public School.

ACTION: Steve to draft a media release for local papers, social media etc. Encourage donations of vouchers / cash. Pantry is full, so cash or supermarket vouchers are preferable. Can deposit straight to bank account or drop vouchers off to Woodrising Neighbourhood Centre. Refer to details at www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/pamper-care-project.

4. **21 April meeting minutes (2min)**

Draft minutes were circulated via email.

Note that account details will be removed for privacy before making minutes public.

Resolution. Confirm the minutes dated 21 April 2020 meeting are a correct record of the meeting proceedings.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

5. **April Treasurer's Report**

Circulated via email. Attached below.

Resolution. The Treasurer's Report is accepted as an accurate record.

6. **April Strategy Update**

Circulated via email.

Note re school visits. Visitors not currently allowed. Keep in mind for when they open back up. Particular need to engage with High School. Can start planning now:

- Clarify what can we offer. Be specific in our offering eg Volunteers will have different interests or strengths. Could for eg offer options for gardening, repairs or recycling activities. Eg Rag Rug kits that Upcycle have been providing.
- Get introductory packs together.

7. Reports

- **SN Networking event, 29 April.** 8 people attended, including people from Toronto, Five Bays, Greater Charlestown, and Rathmines.
Nice chance for participants to catch up.
Consider different time next time, as people still have work and child caring responsibilities.
Discussions and lessons / ideas from covid included:
 - People exercising more. Very quiet.
 - Might be more prepared for next time.
 - Dramatic reduction in air pollution from car traffic in many countries, Europe, UK, China, US, also in Hunter Valley
 - More working from home
 - More walking and cycling for local trips
 - Supporting local businesses
 - Reduced traffic
 - Promote staycations - cut down emissions; don't take overseas holidays. Support local businesses
 - Walkways eg Rathmines-Toronto would bring tourists + support local community to walk and ride
 - Highlight activities for young families – local and affordable/free – ride, walk, picnics, enjoy local neighbourhood
 - (Noted many young people not observing the isolation rules.)
- **Greener Spaces webinar, 12 May.** People appreciating and needing green spaces and shared pathways especially during covid. Great examples from across Aust. NSW Gov grants for Council infrastructure including planting and shared pathways. Thanks Steve for the summary notes:
 - Opportunities after Covid19: NSW Gov.\$350 million to local govts. For shovel ready projects. ACT large tree planting scheme.
 - 60% want more green spaces. 87% positive to urban green spaces. 100% increase in vegetable garden buys.
 - We need more research, enable private land greening, seek more funding, to build on community changed attitude to urban greening as block sizes get smaller, and need for job creation after Covid19.
 - Outdoor jobs would be better at first for jobs stimulus, health and well-being. Last stimulus 2009 used this successfully.
 - We will need seed and plant supplies ready for green army.
 - Case Studies were presented: Cairns, “Living Melbourne Project”, “Greening the West”Melbourne, Wags Group WA
 - Ideas/topics suggested: Biosecurity, bushfire protection, rural mental health, tourism benefits, tree maintenance, water wise programs, help for climate change, electricity costs down with cooler gardens, need for a quotient of green spaces to density of housing, solar water harvesting of storm water, trees for schools.

Webinar summary: <https://www.greenerspacesbetterplaces.com.au/news/covid-19-pulse-check-the-results-are-in-you-might-be-surprised>

- The **New Green Economy Summit** after Covid19 May 6 - Webinar Summary – thanks Steve:
 - Queensland Premier first: 40% Renewables 2030
Australia's biggest Solar farm Western Downs 400 jobs.
Wide Bay Wind Farm. 2030 Exporting Hydrogen.
Schools/5 shopping Centres solar panels/EV charging stations.
Rare minerals NW Qld...for Aussie made batteries.
 - Climate Works:
We are going to have 3degrees warming but must aim for 1.5 increase. 2degrees would mean 10 times Antarctic melting. We should use Corona stimulus for renewables.
60% new trucks/75%new cars should be EV by 2030!
75% energy should be from renewables by 2030.
New vaccines reducing Cattle methane
5 year targets needed.
 - Ross Garnaut:
We have renewable energies and battery power and the Minerals to become Economic Superpower but must reindustrialise as costs of capital now much lower!
 - Aust. Industry Group:
We have the chance to be much more than a quarry!
Stimulus needed as 1 million unemployed and a double dip in August.
A bipartisan Climate Policy needed
Reforms to create retraining for new jobs
Setup of mini-grids,renewables, electrification of transport with charging stations, etc
Western Australia will have 50% rooftop solar by 2030.
Mini grids will lessen risk of bushfires.

Noted that the School Strike for Climate group are doing great work in this space, and we should offer them support, rather than starting up something different.

ACTION: Christine to get in touch with young climate leaders and see how we can support them.

- **Training**
 - **Digital Storytelling online course.** Registrations closed, enrolment confirmations will be sent by 18 May, ready to start 25 May.
 - **Organising and Advocacy online course.** Registrations still open till 25 May. Course due to start 10 June. Encourage you to register asap. Will be a super useful course to improve the way we advocate for change.

- **Volunteer profiles**

Rachelle has been conducting interviews with SN volunteers to develop short stories about what it means to be a Sustainable Neighbourhoods volunteer. Have completed about 5 so far, which we will start promoting. Can continue doing these as long as people keep putting their hands up.

8. Correspondence (17 April – 14 May)

- Invitation to Council Coastal Zone Committee – Coastal Management Program meeting (online)
- Phone call confirmation from EPA to put Plastic Free Cafes project on hold until after covid restrictions ease. Request a report in July to access remaining grant funds.
- Various correspondence with The Change Agency regarding Organising and Advocacy training
- Invitation to network catch up event – sent to key contacts
- Invitation to Digital Storytelling course – sent to key contacts
- Draft Alliance submissions to the NSW Waste and Plastic discussion papers circulated to key contacts for comment. Final submissions sent to NSW Government.
- Request for interviews sent to selected Waste to Art artists.
- Sustainable Neighbourhood News, April x2 and May
- Beyond Zero Emissions May newsletter
- Invitation to Organising and Advocacy workshop – sent to key contacts and committee members
- Request to SN volunteers for profile interviews – sent to key contacts and committee members
- Council volunteer wellbeing survey – sent to SN News list

Next meeting:

How do we encourage people to maintain some of the good things that have come out of this period of isolation? What is a project that you'd like to pursue? Looking for some ideas / projects that we could do to bring about more:

- Community mindedness
- More walking and cycling / less traffic
- Reducing our reliance on fossil fuels
- More veggie gardening
- Appreciation for nature, bushland, wildlife
- Need for public green spaces
- Appreciation for local neighbourhoods
- Support for local businesses

ACTION: Please circulate your action ideas / project outlines for discussion prior to the June meeting. Ask your group members if they have particular projects in mind.

LAKE MACQUARIE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS ALLIANCE

GENERAL MEETING

TREASURER'S REPORT

1 April to 30 April, 2020.

Account 724181724 with Greater Bank, Charlestown Branch.

Balance

\$ 10,550.47 CR

RECEIPTS

09 Apr 2020 EFT LMCC LMCC12798

\$ 3,250.00



22 Apr 2020 Pamper Care C. Aus	<u>50.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 3,300.00

EXPENDITURE

02 Apr 2020 Ref 49048383 Deft Ins	\$ 3,250.00
07 Apr 2020 Ref Repair Café 10168842 Clappison	<u>270.84</u>
Total Expenditure	\$ 3,520.84

BALANCE **\$ 10,329.63 CR**

This is a true statement of accounts for the Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhoods Alliance for the period 1 April to 30 April, 2020.

Signed _____

Name Jean McGarry

Title Hon Treasurer

Date 16 May, 2020.

NOTE

Balance

CBA	127.30
GrtrB	<u>10,329.63</u>
<u>Total Balance</u>	\$ 10,456,93