

Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance Inc

Board meeting – MINUTES

Tuesday 21 July, 6-7pm



**Present:** Jean, Nico, Gab, Christine, Steve, Avril, Sam, Rachelle

**Apologies:** Amanda, Mark, Robyn

Christine offered to Chair the meeting.

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

*We acknowledge the Awabakal people, the Traditional Owners of the land we are meeting on, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.*

## **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **1. Strategic Plan Review**

A progress report on the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Strategic Plan was circulated to board members and the SN network, highlighting actions taken at a citywide level to end of June.

Congratulations to all for progress made so far!

Suggestion to update wording:

Replace *1.2 Sustainable Neighbourhood projects align with Council's priorities*

With

*Sustainable Neighbourhood **activities strengthen** Council's **sustainability** priorities*

The wording change aims to strengthen the intent that objective, and recognise that in many cases SN network is pushing Council to strengthen their sustainability priorities, rather than just following Council's lead. The change demonstrates a community leadership perspective, and shows independence and leadership.

Note that there is no intention to do a renewed print run of the document for now, but the change can be reflected in our internal working documents, and updated when the whole Strategy is renewed.

*Resolution: Agreement to change the wording as above.*

### **2. Alliance 10th Anniversary, July 2021**

Noted that a key project in the Strategy is the Alliance's 10th anniversary - fast approaching in July 2021. How would you like to celebrate this significant occasion and achievement?

Put to network for discussion at upcoming SN Networking event. Some ideas were raised:

- Display and celebrate what we do. (eg at markets)
- Publicity to promote and recruit new members
- Link with Living Smart Festival, September 2021
- Link with ReLeaf project
  - [Tree City of the World](#): Annual celebration of trees;

- National Tree Day in July
- Variety of spots around the lake instead of just Speers Point
- Can we plant street trees by then?
- Native plant giveaway
- Landcare links / tree planting events with schools

*Action: Rachelle to include as discussion item for SN Network meeting in August, and in upcoming SN Newsletter*

### **3. Hunter Region Sustainable Development Goals Task Force**

The Hunter Region SDG Task Force is a group of motivated businesses, not-for-profits and government bodies who are focused on collaborating to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Hunter Region.

<https://huntersdgtaskforce.org/join-the-network>

Joining the network includes this Pledge:

*Your Commitment*

*In making this Pledge you/your organisation agree that you will work towards actions that advocate and accelerate the achievement of the SDGs across the Hunter Region.*

*You are also agreeing in principle that:*

- *Ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection.*
- *The SDGs provide a valuable framework for sustainable development that can be applied at the regional level.*
- *Every business, agency, community and resident, has a stake in achieving the SDGs in the region.*
- *Your commitment will be registered and visible on this website.*

*Each year you/your organisation will be asked to renew your commitment and will be provided with an opportunity to report what you have achieved during the year.*

Note: The Task Force Terms of Reference are also available at weblink above.

Proposal: The Alliance pledges to join the Hunter Region Sustainable Development Goals Task Force

Definitely appears to align with Sustainable Neighbourhood values and objectives, but need to know a bit more about what pledging would involve and commit us to doing.

*ACTION: Nico to research commitment involved and some more information. Rachelle to include in SN Newsletter to let people know the task force exists.*

## **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

### **4. June Treasurer's Report**

Attached below.

Noted that most of the bank account balance is made up of grant funds being held on behalf of local groups. Estimate there is approx. \$3000 in 'untied' funds.

Jean is preparing the 2019-20 financial report which will include the project breakdown, for inclusion in the 2020 Annual Report.

## 5. Risk assessments

- **Dudley Community Garden**  
Updated risk management plan with consideration of covid. Circulated and approved via email.
- **Greater Charlestown Sustainable Neighbourhood Group**  
Risk assessment for upcoming face to face group meetings. Circulated and approved via email.
- **Holmesville Community Garden**  
Updated risk management plan with consideration of covid. Circulated and approved via email.
- **Pelican Area Sustainable Neighbourhood Group**  
Updated risk assessment for face to face group meetings. Circulated via email. Approved.

## 6. Reports

- **Citywide Clean Up**  
Date set for Sunday 9 August, 10am-noon  
5 sites registered so far, Warners Bay, Charlestown, Toronto, Pelican and Rathmines.  
Other groups encouraged to register their sites by 23 July at latest – asap is better  
Media release and promotional content drafted.  
Eventbrite pages set up for Warners Bay and Charlestown. Rachele will create pages for other sites, and go ahead with promotions next week.  
Discussed covid situation and agreed that the risk management plans are adequate to control the current risk. Agreed to continue planning for this event to go ahead, and to check any updated Public Health Orders the week of the event to determine if any changes or cancellations are necessary.
- **School activities**  
Received 5 enthusiastic responses to the idea.  
Key enthusiasm around biodiversity, nature play, microplastics, upcycling & repair, gardening & civic participation.  
Summary of ideas and resources circulated via email to project team. Next step to organise project team meeting to prioritise and decide which activities are viable to offer to schools.
- **Plastic Free Cafes**  
A Final Report has been submitted, with litter and people surveys done, to the EPA, to receive the remainder of the grant. With what is left, there will be about \$4,000 left to do a second round on reusable cups. This is problematic as, the Corona Crisis obviously in a second outbreak, some cafes are not yet ready to use reusable cups, even though in Sydney the Boomerang Alliance's way of safely handling reusable cups is used by some cafes and I have distributed the guidelines.

Planning for a second campaign in November/December but may be put back if things get worse. Suggest the next reusable coffee cup be more like a Keepcup and we can use some other cafes, like Charlestown, at Marks Pt, at MAC, even at Bunnings Cafes etc. So, even though this is a wait and see operation, we shouldn't give up as the takeaway coffee cups mount up!

- **Pamper Care Project**  
Continues to assist residents across the City, thanks to the networking efforts associated with Woodrising Neighbourhood Centre, Oz Harvest and Survivors R Us. Product has gone to Belmont, Windale, Warners Bay, Speers Point, Blackalls Park, Woodrising and Dora Creek.
- **ReLeaf Lake Mac**  
Has a Facebook page and it's first video. <https://www.facebook.com/releaflakemac/>  
Jonathon is working on the website. Finally got some feedback about our failed grant application – circulated via email. Robyn is continuing to research forest bathing/therapy. Tree Cities of the World, <https://treecitiesoftheworld.org/> – Encouraging Council to sign up.  
Looking to launch the website around National Tree Day.
- **Training**  
Digital Storytelling coursework complete. Participants working on their films until 31 July. Organising and Advocacy sessions complete. Encourage participants to share their learnings with local groups.
- **SN Network Gathering**  
Planning for Sustainable Neighbourhood network event (online), **Wednesday 26 August, 6-8pm**. Propose reports from local groups, and discussion of Alliance 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (July 21) and other citywide projects – eg ReLeaf Lake Mac, Schools activities.
- **2020 Annual Report**  
Currently collating volunteer hours, financial report and Chair's report. Aiming to complete by end of August.
- **Grill'd fundraiser**  
Notified that we will be one of the 3 jars at Grill'd Charlestown for the month of August. Will promote to encourage people to put their token in our jar. Most tokens gets \$300 (and maybe 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> get \$100/200?)
- **1 Million Jobs Plan – released 29 June**  
<https://bze.org.au/the-million-jobs-plan/>  
Emphasis on Electrical/Digital based Jobs based on renewables. All states at present committed to 2050 Zero Emissions.  
  
NSW recently got applications for 20GW renewables projects.  
  
EU has plan for 2.5 billion euros on housing refits, 20 billion on electric cars and 60 billion on electric trains!  
  
Plan calls for 1.8 million jobs across spending on housing, batteries, waste/recycling, electric cars. Plan calls for 90GW over 5 years in renewables and 20GW batteries. Including a Townsville to Mt Isa transmission line. Plan calls for 2.5 million housing energy refits and 150,000 new social energy efficient housing. Plan calls for 215,000 manufacturing jobs including aluminium making with renewables. Plan calls for replacement electric buses, 5,000 new cycle lanes, faster trains using existing lines to cut

travel times in half. 140,000 regional jobs. Plan calls for 27 Mhectares land regeneration including using indigenous fire techniques.

The Hunter part of the plan calls for 50,000 new jobs over 5 years, 110,000 over 10 years, including mine rehabilitation, reusing power station fly Ash, and Green Steel using hydrogen and zero emissions, building electric buses, health ventilators.

Plan calls on Waste jobs for the circular economy, regional jobs, permanent jobs not casual, financed by leasing arrangements and government stimulus.

- **BZE work in the Hunter**

Rachelle met with Su Morley recently who is working on their [Diversifying the Hunter](#) project.

The Alliance talked about signing up as a 'Zero Carbon Community' a couple of years ago, but decided against it, as SN have already followed a similar process through development of their SNAPs.

They have updated the resources available on their website now, including:

- Zero Carbon Communities map, <https://bze.org.au/zero-carbon-communities/> - Su suggested it would be suitable to list both the Redhead EnergyWave project specifically, (and Sustainable Neighbourhoods in general) on here.
- Climate Snapshot tool, <https://snapshotclimate.com.au/locality/australia/new-south-wales/lake-macquarie/> - Shows the major sources of carbon emissions for LGA.

*ACTION: Rachelle to include info in upcoming SN Newsletter.*

## **7. Correspondence (12 June – 16 July)**

- Covid Safe plan for Sustainable Neighbourhoods – draft plan and updated risk assessment circulated to SN Key Contacts
- Notification – Redhead EnergyWave grant successful – Council Community Environment Grants. Grant agreement submitted, and funds have been received.
- Notification – NatureScape grant unsuccessful – Council Community Environment Grants
- Approval of grant extension – Cardiff Pollinator Plan – Council Community Environment Grants
- Submission to NSW/ACT Regional Achievement & Community Awards – resubmit previous years application
- Reminder to local groups to renew membership and plan for AGM – Sent to SN Key Contacts
- Request to local groups seeking interest in school activities – Sent to SN Key Contacts
- Enquiry from Beyond Zero Emissions regarding Diversifying the Hunter and other projects
- Feedback from DPIE regarding unsuccessful grant application for ReLeaf project
- Request to local groups seeking estimate of volunteer hours for 2019-20 financial year to inform 2020 Annual Report
- Request to local groups to host a site for the citywide clean up event
- Notification of vacancies on Centennial Consultative Committees – sent to SN Key Contacts
- Media release from Boomerang Alliance – 'Boomerang Alliance calls for national ban on Polluting Takeaway Plastics in 2021'

- Sustainable Neighbourhoods Strategic Plan – Progress Update – sent to SN Key Contacts
- Draft Sustainable Neighbourhoods brochure – sent to SN Key Contacts

LAKE MACQUARIE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS ALLIANCE

GENERAL MEETING

TREASURER'S REPORT

1 June to 30 June, 2020.



Account 724181724 with Greater Bank, Charlestown Branch.

**Balance** **\$ 10,32.63 CR**

**RECEIPTS**

25 Jun 2020 LMCC 12798 – Redhead EnergyWave grant payment \$3,500.00

**Total Income** **\$3,500.00**

**EXPENDITURE**

29 Jun 2020 21233176 DudlyGdnSign 479.86

30 Jun 2020 49847916 CRN03103330 – Redhead EnergyWave newsletter 492.50

**Total Expenditure** **\$ 972.36**

**BALANCE** **\$ 15,762.27 CR**

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

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Name Jean McGarry

Title Hon Treasurer

Date 14 July, 2020.

**NOTE**

**Balance**

**CBA** **127.30**

**GrtrB** **15,762.27**

**Balance** **\$ 15,889.57**