

# Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance

## Ordinary Meeting

### MINUTES

Tuesday 15 December 2015, 6.00 – 8.00pm

Committee Room, Lake Macquarie City Council Administration Building, Speers Point



<b>Present:</b>	Robyn Charlton, Steve Dewar, Norbert Lica, Jean McGarry, Dot Seiffert Rachelle McConville (LMCC)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Avril Lockton, Indra Deamer, Colin Mondy

## 1 Welcome & 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.*

## 2 Apologies

As noted above.

## 3 Conflict of interest

None reported.

## 4 Previous meeting

### 4.1 Ordinary meeting minutes, 20 October 2015 as circulated

*MOTION: That the previous meeting minutes dated 20 October 2015, be confirmed as an accurate record.*

Moved: Steve, Seconded: Norbert. Carried.

### 4.2 Ordinary meeting minutes, 15 November 2015 as circulated

*MOTION: That the previous meeting minutes dated 15 November 2015, be confirmed as an accurate record.*

Moved: Steve, Seconded: Norbert. Carried.

### 4.3 Business arising from the minutes

- **Sponsorship proposal:**
  - Colin met with Travis Peak from Umwelt, and received some positive feedback about potential partnership or sponsorship opportunities with them. We are hoping to hear more from them early in the new year, and may meet again.
  - Steve has updated the proposal and is following up with Suez Environnement. Hey phoned back and were quite interested. Steve will follow up with them again.
- Avril suggested it might be suitable for the Alliance to have a representative on Council's Estuary and Coastal Management Committee. Rachelle asked and these Council committees are only elected for a specific term following Council elections (so the next one will be in Sep16). No problem from Council's perspective for Avril to represent both the Alliance and CEN.

## 5 Correspondence

- Sustainable Neighbourhood News, 26 October, 10 November & 1 December
- Alliance submissions to Council's Australia Day Awards:
  - Community Group of the Year: Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood
  - Community Event of the Year: Old Waste, New Art (West Wallsend SNG)
  - Volunteer of the Year: Colin Mondy
- Various correspondence with Guild Insurance to renew the Alliance's 2016 insurance policy.
- Invitation to all SN members for the Alliance AGM and celebration
- Nomination for the Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance for the CEN's annual awards (submitted by Avril)
- Nomination for Avril Lockton for the 2015 Charlton Volunteer Awards. And invitation to attend the award ceremony on 11 December.
- Letter to the Editor, published in the Newcastle Herald from Steve Dewar on behalf of the Alliance
- Invitation to SN members to attend the Eraring Community Forum
- 'Annual Statement of Financial Affairs' – completed form submitted to NSW Dept Fair Trading
- Request for information and final reports for the Eco Health Expo grants (from Council and LLS)
- Letter of thanks to Christine Aus for her contribution as a board member

**ACTION:** Promote the recent awards from the CEN and for Avril – see if we can get a media release out. Avril was in the Lakes Mail ☺.

## 6 Treasurers report

### 6.1 See November report attached below.

Moved: Jean. Seconded Steve. Carried

### 6.2 Updating bank signatories

We can update these when we have all of our 'executive' available to sign the form: Jean, Dot, Colin and Indra.

### 6.3 Account audit for 2014-15

The board resolved to contact Huw Thomas to audit our 2014-15 accounts.

## 7 For discussion & decision

### 7.1 Hunter Water Consultative Forum

See email circulated by Norbert, 13 November 2015 with an invitation from Declan Clausen on behalf of the Hunter Water Consultative Forum.

The Forum is seeking additional community representatives – particularly from Lake Macquarie. The Forum "provides advice on the interests of customers and consumers of Hunter Water, the Customer Contract and other key issues related to Hunter Water's planning and operations as Hunter Water may determine.

Colin and Avril have experience in participating in the forum in the past and noted that the role involves significant effort to digest and communicate the data received.

The forum may be relevant to our Sustainable Neighbourhood members in terms of Hunter Water's activities in Lake Macquarie.

Rachelle spoke with Declan on 9 December and clarified that the invitation is for a person to represent the Alliance at the forum, and that the Alliance can nominate different representatives to attend each of the meetings, if required. Representatives don't need to be board members, but should understand that they are there to represent the Alliance as a whole (not as an individual, or their particular group).

The board resolved that they do want to become a member organisation on the Consultative Forum, and clarified that the Alliance representative is there to represent the interests of the Sustainable Neighbourhood network (rather than that of individuals).

**ACTION: Need to let the SN network know that we can represent their groups' interests at this forum.**

Jean and Norbert both indicated their willingness to represent the Alliance and attend meetings. Other members can nominate as the need arises, and different members can attend each meeting. The board resolved for Norbert to attend the first meeting on 2 February.

**ACTION: Norbert will contact Declan to confirm his attendance at the first meeting on 2 February.**

## **7.2 Insurance renewal for 2016**

Renewal notice from Guild circulated via email.

The board resolved to go ahead and pay renewal for 2016. Due 9 Jan 2016.

**ACTION: Jean will ensure that the invoice is paid asap.**

# **8 Requests from member groups**

## **8.1 Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser – West Wallsend, 14 Feb**

Risk assessment circulated via email.

Approved.

## **8.2 Projects for Jan – Feb 2016**

These projects may come up in the next couple of months:

- Low food miles community dinner – Dudley – TBC – Maybe scheduled to coincide with Earth Hour, 19 March
- Redhead SNG stall at Surfest event

# **9 Report backs from member groups**

## **9.1 Eco Health Expo – Grant acquittals requested.**

## **9.2 Business briefing for Wangi Centenary, 26 October – Wangi Area SNG**

## **9.3 Wangi Scarecrow Competition and Awards Day – Wangi Area SNG**

Lots of great entries again, and a smaller but fun community awards event – was a great group. Grant from Council was successful, but funds not spent as the event was slightly smaller than originally planned. WASNG are currently working with Council to propose a suitable alternative use for the funds (\$430).

## **9.4 Community Celebration and SNAP Launch, 31 October – Morisset and Peninsula SNG**

40 people lots of activities, and attendance by Deputy Mayor and Councillors.

## **9.5 Cardiff area stall at John Young Community Hall Open Day, 31 October – Cardiff Area SNG**

## **9.6 Alliance AGM and Celebration, 15 November**

## **9.7 Dudley Nature Play workshop - Dudley SNG, 21 November**

Workshop went really well. Had about 30 kids (toddlers to about 10yo) do some sawing, swinging on the tree rope swing, or helping make a hide with branches, over the course of the market.

## **9.8 Seniors Expo – Alliance stall, 19 November**

New contacts.

## **9.9 Plastic Bag Campaign**

TASNG approaching businesses in Toronto to see if they are willing to go plastic bag free. They will approach each business in Toronto to encourage their participation to plastic bag free, and will help with resources available.

Redhead SN are also planning to approach their local businesses.

## **9.10 Toronto Area – Tossers can be binners stage 2 – Fast food rubbish**

Steve is looking at focussing on fast food outlets in Toronto, to install anti-littering signage designed by High School students. They are looking at holding an event in March 2016 in conjunction with Clean Up Australia Day. Toronto to Teralba roundabout.

Signs have been designed. May need some help to liaise with Council staff for installation.

Expect risk assessment for the clean up and big publicity event to come through in Jan-Feb.

## **9.11 2015 Charlton Volunteer Awards**

Congratulations Avril for winning the Environment Volunteer category!

## **9.12 Celebrate Dora Creek, 12 Dec**

Event run by the Dora Creek Hall Association with participation from Dora Creek SNG. ~200 people over the day. RFS and SES attended, and the Mayor and Greg Piper MP attended.

## **9.13 Toronto Pathway Link - Successful grant (Community Building Partnership) – TASNG**

Received grant from NSW Gov Community Building Partnership program. Funding matched by Council. To install crushed concrete (permeable) pathway link along Brighton Ave, Toronto.

## **9.14 LT Creek – Cat Care Brochure**

Native Animal Trust Fund has approached LT Creek SNG with a request to reprint and distribute their Cat Care Brochure. The response (from Council) was that we encourage them to copy and distribute it, but they are not allowed to alter or add their own logo to it.

# **10 General business**

## **10.1 Street Trees**

Robyn has sent through a request to Council staff to encourage more street tree plantings.

Lots of reasons that street trees are valuable. Eg shading and temperature, liveability, insect habitat etc, and general agreement that more street trees would be an asset to Lake Mac – especially in older suburbs where they are very sparse.

Rachelle reported back from a Council assets perspective in that while there is general support for street trees and their value is recognised, Council doesn't have capacity to install or maintain more street tree plantings. Very expensive to install and many considerations to ensure they are not a hazard or nuisance. Currently a very long backlog for Council to manage existing street trees that have become dangerous.

Some discussion about other possibilities eg external funding federal government 'direct action plan' could be accessed to provide resources to assist Council to undertake plantings. Encouraging residents to plant suitable trees on their own properties.

No particular resolution, but general agreement to consider solutions and bring back to the board meetings next year.

## **10.2 Draft Hunter Regional Plan**

Link to draft plan circulated by Robyn, <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-Your-Area/Regional-Growth-Plans/Hunter/How-to-Get-Involved>

And document about Awaba Conservation Area values also circulated via email (see attached below).

Concern that the Awaba Conservation Area is not currently mentioned in the Plan. General agreement that it is important to ensure that the Awaba Conservation Area is mentioned in the Hunter Regional Plan. Further research of the draft plan is required to identify and assess any other issues that might be relevant to the Sustainable Neighbourhood network.

**ACTION:** Robyn will draft a submission to the draft plan, highlighting the need to include the Awaba Conservation Area, and other issues that are relevant to the SN membership. Robyn to circulate draft to Alliance Board members – ideally with time to enable distribution to SN groups early in the new year.

### **10.3 Recycling coffee cups and cork bottle stoppers**

Idea for next year to encourage retailers to provide incentive to customers to use reusable coffee cups for takeaways. Or alternative coffee cups that are actually recyclable.

## **11 For information only**

Summary of website statistics November 2014 – October 2015. See chart below.

## **12 Next ordinary meeting date: Tuesday 16 February, 6-8pm**

Rachelle on leave from 17 December and returning 3 February.

Agenda item for February? (From October meeting) Come with suggestions about how local group members can better manage their groups and share the responsibilities with other volunteers.

## **13 Meeting close**

**LAKE MACQUARIE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS ALLIANCE**

**GENERAL MEETING**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**1 November, to 30 November, 2015.**



Account 06 2806 10352969 with Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Charlestown Branch.

**Balance** **\$ 5,474.66**

**RECEIPTS**

01 Nov Interest Credit	0.06c
13 Nov 032106 LMCC-978265 - Wangi Scarecrow Competition	\$ 430.00
Total Receipts	\$ 430.06c

**EXPENDITURE**

Chq 000052 S. Mudge (Dudley Community Garden)	\$ 380.00
Chq 000053 N. Lica (Eco Health Expo + book)	\$ 397.45
Total Expenditure	\$ 777.45

**BALANCE** **\$ 5,127.27**

This is a true statement of accounts for the Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhoods Alliance for the period ended 30 November, 2015.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

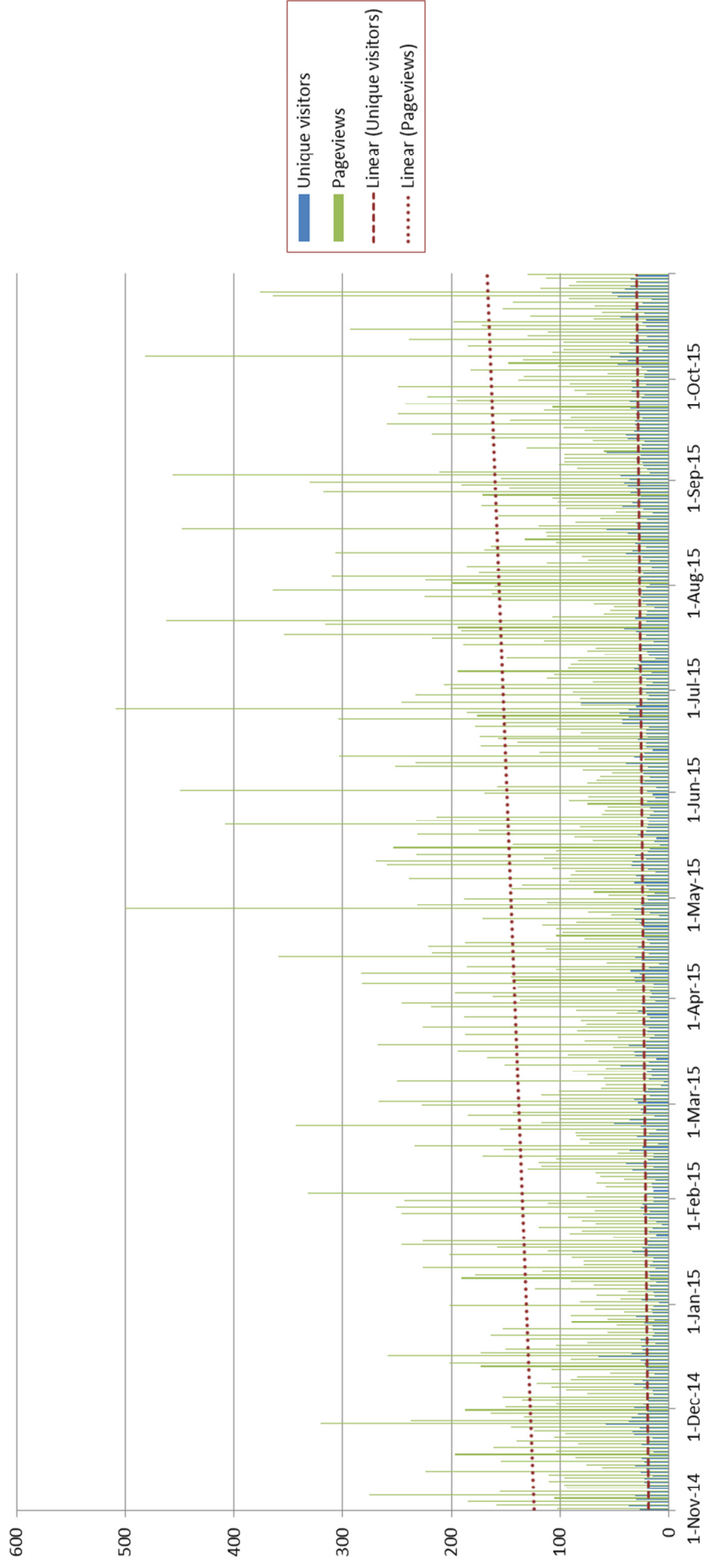
Name Jean McGarry

Title Hon Treasurer

Date 13 December, 2015.

# Sustainable Neighbourhoods website activity

November 2014 - October 2015





AWABA CONSERVATION AREA

Introduction

The Awaba Conservation Area is mainly Crown Land adjacent to the Sugarloaf State Conservation Area and the Awaba State Forest, Securing this land will help establish an important and vital wildlife corridor to the Lake Macquarie State Conservation Area. A corridor from the Watagans to Lake Macquarie.

Awaba Conservation area is also a part of two catchment areas – Dora Creek and Stony Creek.

Background

The establishment of the Awaba Conservation Area (Awaba Nature Reserve), on Crown Land between Awaba and Dora Creek was recommended in 1972 by the National Trust of Australia (NSW) in the Hunter 2000 report (SWC Consultancy 1995 p 1). In 1995 Lake Macquarie City Council commissioned and ecological assessment of the proposed site by SWC Consultancy.

The ecological assessment concluded that the proposal by the National Trust Australia was justified and that approximately 2,190ha should be set aside to assist in conserving and protecting rare and endangered flora species and protect the habitat of endangered species in the area.

In 2009 the NSW State Government Acknowledged the importance of the land with its high conservation and biodiversity values stating “Additional conservation areas in West Lake Macquarie are clearly the next highest priority for the future. DECC will be actively working to improve conservation of priority lands in the West Lake Macquarie area by improved conservation Practices on other crown tenures, through private land partnerships or as the sites for conservation offsets” ( DECC 2009 p32).

McLean, Charlton and Jordan (2011) describe the high conservation and biodiversity values of West Lake Macquarie including the Awaba Woodlands. The conclusion of the proposal was the bushlands of West Lake Macquarie provided a “unique and valuable refugia for a number of threatened species and ecological communities” (p12). The proposal reflects previous reports that Crown land could be transferred to Regional Park and or a Conservation Area.

Lake Macquarie City Council in 2013, acknowledged the proposed Conservation Area with the Lifestyle 2030 Strategy, as well the threats and stresses to ecosystems and biodiversity.

Threats

Threats to the area include coal mining and other extractive industries, illegal dumping, urban and industrial development, habitat fragmentation, loss of hollow bearing trees.

Ecological Communities include:

Coastal Plains Smooth Barked Apple Woodland, Coastal Sheltered Apple-Peppermint Forests, Coastal Plains Scribbly Gum Ironbark Forest. Individual species include Drumsticks, Christmas bells, Crinklebush, Cheese Tree and Sandpaper Fig

Threatened and Endangered Species

Flora

Tetratheca juncea

Grevillea parviflora

Acacia bynoeana

Angophora inopina

Endangered Ecological Communities

River Flat Eucalyptus Forest

Swamp sclerophyll forest

Fauna include

Masked Owl

Powerful Owl

Sooty Owl

Barking Owl

Grey-Headed Flying Fox

Spotted Quoll

Osprey

Swift Parrot

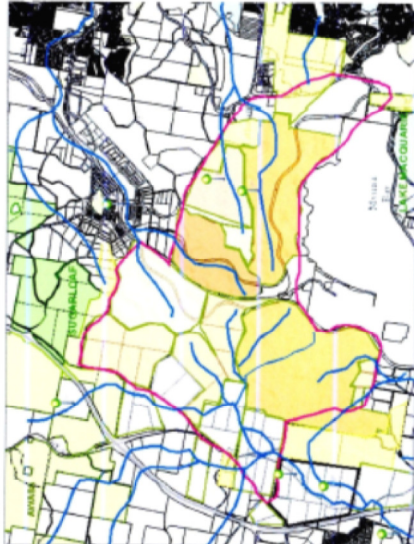
Large-eared Pied Bat

Green Thighed Frog

Wallum Froglet

Squirrel Glider

Awaba Conservation Area



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