

# Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance

## Ordinary Meeting

### MINUTES

Tuesday 20 June 2017, 6.00 - 8.00pm

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



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

## 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 above.

## 3 Conflict of interest

None stated.

## 4 Previous meeting

### 4.1 Ordinary meeting minutes, 16 May 2017

*MOTION: That the previous meeting minutes dated 16 May 2017, be confirmed as an accurate record.*

Moved: Colin. Seconded: Steve. Carried.

### 4.2 Business arising from the minutes

Outstanding actions from previous meetings:

- Action from May meeting: That the Alliance write a letter to Council, congratulating their commitment to community engagement, and for winning the recent award. Incomplete.
- Action from April meeting: Regarding inclusion of accessibility requirements on Alliance risk assessment forms; Waiting for feedback from Council staff.
- Action from November meeting: Suggestion to approach / research plastic manufacturers / packaging associations to tackle plastic packaging and pollution from the other end.  
→ New ACTION: Steve will enquire with Planet Ark about whether there are already efforts to liaise with plastic packaging manufacturers; and to seek advice about suitable organisations to approach.

## 5 Correspondence

- Invitation for stallholders for Council's Living Smart Festival, Saturday 23 September
- Invitation to Keep NSW Beautiful's [Litter Congress](#), Sydney 25-26 July
- Sustainable Neighbourhood News, 25 May and 6 June
- Various correspondence with Keep NSW Beautiful, and Council regarding Rathmines Community Litter Grant, and clarifying grant requirements.
- Grant acceptance for Rathmines Community Litter Grant – submitted to KNSWB for payment.

- Request from Boomerang Alliance encouraging participation in their 'Twitter Storm' 23 May. Forwarded to LT Creek and Cardiff Area SNGs for use on their twitter accounts.
- Invitation to participate in Lake Mac Art Gallery's event on 18 June.
- Request from Ability Links to publish story about their assistance to update our accessibility requirements.
- Agreement to be a joint signatory to the Boomerang Alliance's letter on plastic bags to the NSW, VIC and WA Ministers.
- Request from Boomerang Alliance to join their 'Thunderclap' (coordinated social media message) about plastic bags.
- Grant acceptance for the West Wallsend District SNG's project 'Holmesville Community Garden' – submitted to Council for payment.

*MOTION: That the correspondence be confirmed as an accurate record.*

Moved: Steve. Seconded: Dot. Carried.

## 6 Treasurers report

### 6.1 Treasurer's report for May 2017

See report attached, below.

*MOTION: That the Treasurers Report is accepted.*

Moved: Jean. Seconded: Steve. Carried.

## 7 For discussion & decision

### 7.1 Fishing rubbish in lake and ocean – Toronto Area SNG

Possible education campaign to decrease the level of fishing debris, and generic litter ending up in the lake and foreshore.

Steve has been doing some further research and has identified that the main issue is generic litter coming through the stormwater system. It will still be valuable to target anglers and boat users as part of an overall litter campaign.

See more details in project summary, circulated via email.

*Proposal: Develop actions to target anglers and boat users, as well as continuing to undertake general litter awareness and prevention actions.*

1. *Mounting an educational campaign through bait and fishing shops and fishing clubs to cut down on rubbish going into waterways and encouraging bring your own bait containers.*

ACTION: Steve will contact DPI to find out where people can buy fishing Licenses in Lake Mac, and whether DPI are interested in doing something at the Living Smart Festival.

ACTION: Colin will contact the Coastal Zone Management Committee Secretary to request it is added to their agenda.

ACTION: Rachelle will find some brochures or relevant materials to take to fishing shops.

2. *Working with LMCC to install more fine particle filters on stormwater drains into the Lake/Ocean.*

ACTION: Rachelle will enquire with relevant Council staff regarding fine particle filters on stormwater drains.

3. *Stencilling more drains in Lake Macquarie.*

ACTION: Steve will contact Margo Smith regarding drain stencilling.

## 7.2 Paper/cardboard 'I heart my Dog' poop scoop bags – Redhead SNG

Colin has completed some research regarding the paper/cardboard poop scoop bags, discussed at the November meeting. To recap, the intent is to encourage people to pick up their dog's poo; without encouraging purchase of plastic bags.

In summary:

- Cannot find similar product manufactured in Australia.
- Unlikely that Aust manufacturers would start making them.
- Pricing from European manufacturers:

Supplier	Cost per bag (no freight)	Cost per bag with freight
Netherlands supplier	\$0.09 per bag	\$0.27/bag
UK supplier <a href="http://www.poopscoop.biz">www.poopscoop.biz</a>	\$0.23 per bag	???

- The costs of the Poop Scoop bags could be offset with sponsorship by pet-shops and related businesses, utilising the free offer to print on the bags.
- The organization of a trial of the Poop Scoop bags in Redhead or in the City of Lake Macquarie is unfortunately beyond our group's resources at present.

PROPOSAL: To request that the Council purchase a number of bags to be used:

- for Sustainable Neighbourhood volunteers to take samples to local pet suppliers to suggest that they start stocking them;
- and to be used as giveaways or educational resources.

ACTION: Rachele to approach relevant Council staff to investigate possibilities.

## 8 Requests from member groups

### 8.1 Promotion stall at Warners Bay Markets – 8 July

Expecting risk assessment soon.

## 9 Report backs from member groups and projects

### 9.1 Boomerang Bags Workshop – Cardiff Area

Another great event. Had about 20 people attending, and made a bunch of Boomerang Bags. Intending to do some more workshops in future.

Photos and report here: [www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/boomerang-bags-sewing-workshop](http://www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/boomerang-bags-sewing-workshop).

And article in the Newcastle Weekly, page 12:

[https://issuu.com/newcastleweekly/docs/nw20170601\\_issuu](https://issuu.com/newcastleweekly/docs/nw20170601_issuu)

### 9.2 Bag Swap Stations – Blackalls Park, Redhead (and Boolaroo tbc)

- A box for reusable bags has been installed at the Blackalls Park Friendly Grocer. Now working to improve the signage and find a better stand/platform to put it on.
- Redhead are also liaising with local shop owners to set up similar stations. They are also providing a number of new reusable bags (from Council)
- LGA at Boolaroo might also be interested.

Currently working to coordinate a media release, once above actions are complete.

### 9.3 Response from Hunter Water Community Consultative Forum

Jean forwarded the request from LT Creek SNG on to the Hunter Water Community Consultative Forum, regarding Lot 2 DP 810981, Wangi Road, Wangi (Myuna Bay). Their response has been circulated via email. Their response confirmed Hunter Water acquisition of the land parcel, and detailed their access and obligations relating to an underground water main there.

#### **9.4 Native Tree Symposium**

Native trees are our future - Landcare Super Saturday Session

Saturday 15 July, 9.30am-1pm

Join Lake Macquarie Landcare for a jam-packed day of presentations about the value of endemic native trees. Speakers from Landcare, Council, Trees In Newcastle, and the Coal Point Progress Association will discuss a range of topics including impacts of development; values of street and backyard trees; adaptations to fire; and the importance of native trees for wildlife.

Location: Coal Point Progress Association Hall (wheelchair accessible), 197 Skye Point Road, Coal Point

Numbers are limited. Please register by 12 July at [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com), or call the Landcare Resource Office on 4921 0392.

#### **9.5 LT Creek Update**

In regards to the Scribbly Gum Reserve, a meeting was held with the CEO of Biraban LALC. The report and booklet were forwarded to her. We are now waiting for the Board of the Land Council to consider the project and respond.

Glinda had a photo opportunity with Joel, from J.D.'s World of Magic at Toronto Workers Club.

LT Creek SNG and Glinda would like to introduce Yunung T Turtle and Steve the Seal as their ambassadors for plastic reduction campaign in west Lake Macquarie.

#### **9.6 Rathmines Area SNG – Local Litter Check and Community Litter Grant application**

Grant acceptance has now been submitted, and the group has been working with Council staff to identify suitable sites for the new bins.

#### **9.7 Dog management brochure**

Project team members had a meeting, and agreed on the final changes for the brochure. These changes are currently being made with Lake Mac Print, and it is (almost!) ready to print.

#### **9.8 Brighton Avenue Footpath project**

The footpath has now been completed, and the Toronto Area SNG held a launch event which attracted media attention: <http://www.lakesmail.com.au/story/4709357/fifty-years-in-the-making-toronto-footpath-worth-the-wait-photos-video/>

#### **9.9 Dissolution of the Wangi Area SNG**

The Wangi Area Sustainable Neighbourhood Group has formally dissolved their group at a special meeting on 13 June.

Since the group was first established in 2013, they have been particularly successful and productive. Two of their events, the Wangi Centenary Celebrations, and the Wangi Scarecrow Competition have been recognised as the Lake Macquarie Community Event of the Year in 2017 and 2015 respectively. In addition they have supported a variety of local initiatives including the knitting club, gardening club, and run other small community events, and acted as effective advocates on behalf of the Wangi community.

The Alliance Board congratulates the Wangi Area SNG for their outstanding work.

ACTION: Rachelle will organise a letter on behalf of the Alliance Board.

#### **9.10 Warners Bay – ‘Transition Streets’ / Zero Emissions project**

The Warners Bay Area SNG are considering a project around household sustainability, based on ideas from the [Transition Streets handbook](#), and the [Zero Carbon Communities](#) models. Not quite sure about the scope or structure of the project yet, but there's potential for other SNGs or the network as a whole to get involved.

### **9.11 Plastic pollution stall at Art Gallery**

Good day, except for the weather. Alliance stall was inside, and there were plenty of people around to talk with. Received a thank you from Jo (Art Gallery staff) saying that it was great to have the SN stall there.

### **9.12 Nature Play Network**

Following Council's recent screening of Project Wild Thing, Lake Mac community members have set up a local network to promote and discuss nature-based activities for children, and to encourage children, parents and guardians to roam free, play wild, and connect with nature.

To connect with the network join their Facebook group,  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2065812490312807/>

### **9.13 Coastal Zone Management Committee meeting**

Consultants gave an update on current flood studies.

Awaiting meeting minutes.

### **9.14 Alliance Board representation on Committees - reminder**

A reminder regarding the Coastal Zone Management Committee and other bodies on which we have Alliance Board representation:

- Representatives are there representing the Alliance Board, and the Sustainable Neighbourhood network as a whole.
- Include regular reminders to the SN network that they can suggest relevant agenda items for the various committees.
- Any suggestions from members (or Alliance board members) need to be considered and approved by the Alliance Board prior to being put to a committee.

### **9.15 Mid-year update and promotion**

Would be valuable to compile a summary of recent achievements of Sustainable Neighbourhood Groups and to promote.

ACTION: Rachelle will include summary of current projects and achievements in SN News; and Eco Advocate if possible.

## **10 Meeting close.**

Meeting close: 7:50pm

Next meeting date: 18 July 2017, 6-8pm

### **Treasurer's Report:**

**LAKE MACQUARIE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS ALLIANCE**

**GENERAL MEETING**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**1 May to 31 May 2017.**



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

**Balance**

**\$ 14,185.64CR**

**RECEIPTS**

Total Receipts \$ NIL

**EXPENDITURE**

06 May,2017 Chq 000069 - Dudley Comm Garden (workshop fee) \$ 225.00  
17 May 2017Chq 000070 – Dudley Comm Garden (misc expenses) \$ 138.54

Total Expenditure \$ 363.54

**BALANCE**

**\$ 13,822.10CR**

This is a true statement of accounts for the Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhoods Alliance for the period 1 May to 31 May, 2017.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Name Jean McGarry

Title Hon Treasurer

Date 20 June, 2017.