

# Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance

## Ordinary Meeting

### MINUTES

Tuesday 20 September 2016, 6.00 - 8.00pm

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



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

## 3 Conflict of interest

None stated.

## 4 Previous meeting

### 4.1 Ordinary meeting minutes, 16 August 2016 as tabled

MOTION: *That the previous meeting minutes dated 16 August 2016, be confirmed as an accurate record.*

Moved: Steve Seconded: Jean. Carried.

### 4.2 Business arising from the minutes

- Example of paper 'I heart my Dog' poop scoop bags – Colin. ACTION: Colin to see if they are available in Australia. Action held over to future meeting.

## 5 Correspondence

- Alliance media release – 'Growing support for a plastic bag ban' – sent to various media outlets. Resulted in article published in Newcastle Weekly, 8 September, and in the Lakes Mail, 15 September. Interview with local ABC radio – expecting the interview to be played this week sometime.
- Request for information about Plastic Bag Campaign, Palai Yasowa, PNG
- Reminder to SN Key Contacts about Health and Safety Training
- Grant application for 'Responsible Dog Care Brochure' – submitted to Council's current round of Environmental Sustainability Grants
- Grant application for Dudley Community Garden – submitted to Council's current round of Environmental Sustainability Grants
- Final report for Dudley Community Garden – Equipment Grant (from 2013 with extensions) – submitted to Council.
- Signed Grant Agreement submitted to the Stronger Communities Programme (Dept of Infrastructure and Regional Development) for the Pit Pony Park Rehabilitation Stage 2 project

- Various correspondence with the Plastic Bag Free Alliance regarding their teleconference, meeting notes, and follow up with Lisa Wriley.
- Reply to Andrew Murdoch, Kleinfelder, and LT Creek SNG regarding their grant proposal and explaining the Alliance's objections to the current version.
- Notification from Dept Fair Trading about changes to NSW Association laws, starting from 1 September
- Notification of Highly Commended in the Blue Star Awards
- Sustainable Neighbourhood News, 6 September
- Cardiff Area SNG – media release – 'Turning coffee grounds green' sent to various media outlets.

*MOTION: That the correspondence be accepted.*

Moved: Steve Seconded: Norbert. Carried.

## 6 Treasurers report

### 6.1 Treasurer's report for August 2016

See report attached, below.

*MOTION: That the Treasurers Report is accepted.*

Moved: Robyn. Seconded: Indra. Carried.

## 7 For discussion & decision

### 7.1 Living Smart Festival and Plastic Bag Campaign

Confirmed activities for LSF include:

- Encouraging people to sign the form letter to Minister Mark Speakman about actions to reduce plastic pollution.
- Waste displays supplied by WWSNG, and promoting alternatives to disposable plastic (ie reusable bags, bring your own coffee cups, local plastic bag free champions etc)
- Talk about the activities you and your group have done, are planning or implementing. Help promote upcoming SN events from around the city.
- Help people find their local SN group – we'll have a map available and copies of each group's SNAPs. Collect contact details (email) for them to find out more (If people sign up, they can have a packet of veggie seeds or a reusable bag.)
- The Alliance's stall will be set up next to the Ocean Action Pod. The Pod will be staffed by Rachele and a 'Pod person', and will be helping to promote Council's Eco Angel Clean Up program as well as complementing our waste messages as above.
- Displays and handouts for the Awaba Conservation area will also be included.

[Media release](#) was successful, resulting in articles in the Newcastle Weekly, Lakes Mail, and interest from the ABC.

Report back from meeting with Lisa Wriley, (Community Campaigner, Total Environment Centre). They coordinate a national campaign around plastic pollution, [www.boomerangalliance.org.au](http://www.boomerangalliance.org.au), and can provide support, especially in terms of networking and coordinating with other groups around Aust, and promoting successful projects and campaign actions.

Lisa also provided a form letter to use at public events, and update of current campaign activities.

### 7.2 Proposal to join the Boomerang Alliance

Following our meeting with Lisa Wriley, the Alliance has been invited to formally join the Boomerang Alliance (BA) as an ally. BA provides an umbrella for a range of organisations for national waste and recycling campaigns. The Boomerang Alliance is run out of the office of the Total Environment Centre. More info here: [www.boomerangalliance.org.au](http://www.boomerangalliance.org.au).

Formally joining BA as an ally, would mean that the Alliance is automatically included as a supporter for submissions, media or other campaign activities they put produce for these specific campaigns. The Alliance can choose to support any or all of the policies.

- Container Deposit Systems
- Waste Levies
- Plastic Pollution
- Toxic Tyres (largely completed)
- Waste to Energy

More detail of their policies is included in the 'Important Information for BA Allies' circulated via email, and is available on their website.

*MOTION: That the Alliance agree to formally join the Boomerang Alliance as one of their allies, and endorse all of their current policies and campaigns, as detailed in the 'Important Information for BA Allies' document.*

Moved: Jean. Seconded: Norbert. Carried.

### **7.3 Networking and 'Show and Tell' Event**

Decided to book in the Landcare Resource Centre for an available date in the first weekend in December for a networking, 'Show and Tell' event.

Sat or Sun lunchish.... informal event and opportunity to:

- hear about what each group has been up to;
- share ideas, inspiration ,and learn from each other;
- invite Councillors, relevant Council staff

## **8 Requests from member groups**

### **8.1 Wangi Centenary Celebration, Sunday 23 October**

Event application and risk assessment circulated via email.

The event application is still under consideration by Council staff, and awaiting a few final details. Seeking initial approval from Alliance Board. Confirmation of approval will be subject to further approval by the Alliance's insurer, and Council.

Approved in principle, pending receipt of necessary paperwork, and approval by Alliance insurer and Council.

### **8.2 Greater Charlestown SNG – Request regarding Madeira Vine**

Request circulated via email. Suggest that we need further consultation with Landcare and Council staff to be able to respond. General agreement that the issue should be referred to Landcare, as they are the experts in community weed management, and for Rachele to continue to liaise with relevant staff to come to a resolution.

### **8.3 Dudley Community Garden – Final report for initial grant application**

Circulated via email. Submitted to Council.

### **8.4 Dudley Community Garden – Grant Application**

Approved via email and submitted.

### **8.5 Dudley Community Garden – Request for insurance cover for Living Smart Festival stall**

Request and risk assessment circulated via email.

Approved.

## 8.6 Cardiff Area SNG – Aussie Backyard Bird Count Breakfast

Risk assessment circulated via email.

Approved.

## 9 Report backs from member groups

### 9.1 Jewells Area SNG – Sustainable Native Backyards Display, 20 August 2016

Successful launch event. Probably talked to about 100 or so people over the 2 hours, and some new sign ups for the group and Council programs. Sold some nesting boxes for the Mens Shed.

### 9.2 West Wallsend District SNG – former Holmesville Tennis Courts

The WWDSNG are taking the lead to form a Council Operating Committee to take over the management of the former Holmesville Tennis Courts. They are hoping to convert it to a community garden, and to be able to use the facility for a meeting place.

Proposed arrangement similar to that for the Dudley Community Garden, that is:

- A Council Operating Committee is independent of the SNG and Alliance
- Activities to manage the facility (including gardening) are supervised directly by Council, and Council provides the relevant training, volunteer insurance, and approval and reporting protocols.
- As there is a genuine relationship between the WWDSNG, and the Operating Committee for the community garden, the Alliance could possibly auspice funding applications for garden projects. In that case, the Alliance agrees to be responsible for the grant management, but does not insure or supervise the actual project activities - ie gardening or management of a Council facility.

### 9.3 LT Creek SNG – Awaba State Conservation Area Campaign - September update

- Community Environment Network (CEN) has endorsed Awaba SCA(P).
- Glinda S. Glider has come down from her forest home to spread the love and word. She has had photo opportunities with Mayoral Candidates Kay Fraser and Laurie Coghlan, West Ward Candidates - Cr Wendy Harrison, Cr. Rosmairi Dawson, Garth Weiley, David Belcher and Luke Cubis. Other Candidates include Matt Schultz, Mark Howells and Mathew McMullen. <https://conserwestlakes.wordpress.com/awaba-conservation-area/glinda-the-squirrel-glider-ambassador/glinda-selfies/>
- Other West Ward Candidates supporting the Project include, Ann Morris and Allan Holmes. She has had a photo opportunity with Greg Piper and Kelly Hoare.
- The first children's book has been written. <https://conserwestlakes.wordpress.com/awaba-conservation-area/the-glinda-stories/>
- Video has been made starring JACK, age 4 years, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PIoM9LNyxq0>
- Henri, the Masked Owl has made his appearance on the Website and Facebook. Thanks to the wonderful work of JABE, <https://conserwestlakes.wordpress.com/awaba-conservation-area/glinda-the-squirrel-glider-ambassador/henri-the-masked-owl>
- Fleta and Flick have arrived and made their appearance on Facebook and on the website. Thanks to great efforts of Linda Marr, <https://conserwestlakes.wordpress.com/awaba-conservation-area/glinda-the-squirrel-glider-ambassador/meet-the-bad-guys>
- There are frog posters, Glinda bumper stickers and Glinda's first story are for sale.
- The website is concentrating on Wildflowers in the area. It is the season. <https://conserwestlakes.wordpress.com/awaba-conservation-area/plants-of-awaba-conservation-area/wildflowers/>
- Extra fencing and signage has gone up at the Freeman's Drive intersection of Hawkemount Rd.
- The Crown Lands and Centennial are still in negotiations in regards to the illegal dumping issue

### 9.4 Report back – Hunter Water Community Consultative Forum

See report attached below.

## 9.5 Report back – Sustainable Neighbourhoods review so far

Review tasks completed this month:

- Alliance Board interviews with Jess completed. Report circulated via email.
- Volunteer survey now closed. 74 completed. Analysis and report to come.
- Stakeholder survey in development.
- Staff and Board Member attendance at local SNG meetings
  - Valentine, Cardiff Area, Redhead, Caves Beach-Swansea Area, Toronto Area and West Wallsend District now complete. Thanks for board member participation so far.
  - Upcoming meeting schedule:

Monday 26-Sep-16 5.15 start	Pelican Area	Marks Point Sports Club, 3A Findon St, Marks Point	Dot and Jean
Tuesday 27-Sep-16 6-8pm	Jewells Area	Anglican Parish of Belmont North, corner of Harrison St and Ntaba Rd, Belmont North	Jean
Wednesday 28-Sep-16 6.30pm	LT Creek	Toronto Workers Club	Norbert
Monday 10-Oct-2016 5.30 - 7.30pm	Morisset and Peninsula	The Church in the Trees	Dot
Thursday 13-Oct-16 7 - 8pm	Greater Charlestown	Board Room. Central Charlestown Leagues Club, 8 Bula St, Charlestown	Jean

## 9.6 Health and Safety Training, Tuesday 30 August, 5.30 – 8.30pm

We had 10 volunteers attend the training, with representatives from all of the newer groups, and a few returning for refreshers.

## 9.7 Combined information night, Redhead, Dudley, Greater Charlestown and Jewells Area, 11 October

These groups are planning an evening with speakers from WetlandCare (Belmont Wetlands State Park) and Council (current status of a Lake Macquarie Coastal Wetlands Park), and to formulate a strategy about pursuing the creation of the Lake Macquarie Coastal Wetlands Park.

They would also like a representative from the Alliance to attend and give a brief introduction to and update about the Alliance and current campaigns. Rachele, Dot, Indra and Jean are planning to attend.

## 9.8 Annual General Meeting

The AGM is scheduled for Tuesday 15 November, 6-8pm.

Nominations are open for Alliance Board Members,

[https://gallery.mailchimp.com/2290d7a2e36453fd9f678cb27/files/AGM\\_Notice\\_Rules\\_and\\_Nomination\\_Form\\_2016.pdf](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/2290d7a2e36453fd9f678cb27/files/AGM_Notice_Rules_and_Nomination_Form_2016.pdf)

## 10 For information

### 10.1 Website statistics for August 2016

See chart below

## 11 Meeting close.

Meeting closed 8.05pm. Next ordinary meeting date: Tuesday 18 October, 6-8pm

**Treasurer's Report:**



**LAKE MACQUARIE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS ALLIANCE**

**GENERAL MEETING**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**1 August, to 31 August, 2016.**

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

**Balance** **\$ 14,564.48CR**

**RECEIPTS**

Interest 0.45c

Total Receipts \$ .45c

**EXPENDITURE**

2 Aug Chq 000063 Simon Mudge (Dudley CGdns) \$ 560.01

25 Aug Chq 000064 Simon Mudge (Dudley CGdns) 5.70

Total Expenditure \$ 565.71c

**BALANCE** **\$ 13,999.22CR**

This is a true statement of accounts for the Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhoods Alliance for the period 1 August to 31 August, 2016.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Name Jean McGarry

Title Hon Treasurer

Date 14 September, 2016.

**HUNTER WATER COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE FORUM REPORT**  
to  
**LAKE MACQUARIE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD ALLIANCE BOARD**  
Meeting, 13 September, 2016.

On behalf of the Alliance, I attended the above meeting of Hunter Water Community Consultative Forum (the Forum), which was held at the Burwood Beach Wastewater Treatment Plant (Burwood Beach). Burwood Beach was established in 1936 and is located at Off Scenic Drive, Merewether. To say the least, it was an interesting part of our local area, part of Hunter Water's operations, to visit, and a place I had known about for most of my life, but not actually seen. Burwood Beach provides waste water treatment services to 30% of Hunter Water's total commitment. Burwood Beach is now operated by a private contractor, Veolia.

#### **REVIEW OF HUNTER WATER COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE FORUM**

For Hunter Water, 2017 represents its 125<sup>th</sup> year of operation. In light of this, Jeremy Bath, Chief Customer Service Officer, announced that a review of the Forum, its composition and its services, would be conducted during the remainder of the year. His uppermost aim is to widen the Forum's impact and make changes across what the Forum is doing, to better service the wider Hunter Water community.

Changes in property development requirements now mean that 'enclosed communities' are in existence where no water or sewerage services are provided by Hunter Water. One such community is located in the new development at Cooranbong.

#### **INTRODUCTION OF NEW MANAGING DIRECTOR**

Our Alliance had no matter before this meeting of the Forum, but the introduction of the new Managing Director (MD) of Hunter Water was made. The MD is Mr. Jim Bentley, an Englishman, who for the past 10 years has been working in one of New Zealand's universities.

His experience prior to New Zealand has been in a water service operation on the south western coast of England. This was a privatised operation. In his address it became clear that he is quite positively disposed to privatised operations.

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

##### **Stephen Marks, Wastewater Treatment Planning Engineer**

Upgrades are being undertaken at Burwood Beach for disinfection of waste. After research and review, UV Disinfection systems are being installed at Burwood Beach to treat waste and will be commissioned in March 2017.

The disinfection method is tied to the amount of waste passing the disinfection UV locations, of which there will be six. The cost of this method of disinfection is \$14 million dollars. This method of disinfection will also treat some viruses.

Stephen Marks also pointed out that severe wet weather means that the waste water stream is not disinfected, but goes out to ocean disposal. The end of the disposal pipe is 1Km out to sea. Severe weather can mean that waste can be blown in the direction of the wind, up the coast or down the coast.

##### **Jordi Bates, Water Resources Team Leader, Planning.**

##### **Seaham Weir Pool Erosion Study**

Seaham Weir Pool is 20kms upstream on the Williams River. The last studies in this area were in 1968 and 1978. The Seaham Weir Pool is a primary source for drinking water. Erosion of the banks of the river/pool have increased

the level of nutrients in the water leading to the development of algal bloom development. This has resulted in increased turbidity.

The Report from this study will be released on Monday 19 September, 2016. Its findings will show the following:

- deterioration in erosion
- boating is increasing susceptibility to erosion
- three-quarters of the weir pool was found to be moderately erosive or worse
  - 28% needs immediate management
  - 68% needs ongoing monitoring
  - 4% requires no action at this stage

### **Recommendations**

As there is limited opportunity to redirect boating traffic, and the relatively narrow width does not allow redirection of boating pathway some difficulty is experienced.

Stage 1 Management Action Plan sets out:

- immediate riverbank remediation |
- weed removal | This is NSW Govt RMS management
- revitalisation of native vegetation |

Stage 2 Management Action involves:

- revegetation/structural works
- management of revegetation works
- release of Williams River Report 19 September
- facilitation of development of interagency by TINSW

### **Darren Cleary, Chief Operating Officer**

#### Williamtown Reticulation Project

- currently the project to deal with Williamtown contamination is on track for 2017, commencing in Farm Cove and Lauers Lane
- designs for Salt Ash are nearing completion
- eligible residents have until March 2017 to notify intent
- Hunter Water will provide connection point inside fence line of property, owners will have to employ a plumber to complete connection of property

#### Campvale Surface Water Catchment

- pump station must operate
- pump station was constructed in 1962
- pump station pumps from Campvale to Grahamstown Dam
- pump station only operates in wet weather, NOT dry
- PFOS/PFOA evidence detected in Campvale Pump Station
- lifetime exposure basis for determination of acceptable PFOS level
- PFOS/PFOA testing now ongoing
- evidence of PFOS/PFOA has been found in household dust at much higher levels than in water and waste water

The meeting closed at 12.15pm . The next meeting will take place in February 2017 at a venue to be notified.



# Sustainable Neighbourhoods website activity

November 2014 - July 2016

