

# Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance

## Ordinary Meeting

### MINUTES

Tuesday 16 August 2016, 6.00 - 8.00pm

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



|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Present:</b>   | Robyn Charlton, Indra Deamer, Steve Dewar, Norbert Lica, Avril Lockton, Jean McGarry, Colin Mondy, Dot Seiffert<br>Rachelle McConville (LMCC)<br>Jess Murray (Student at LMCC)<br>Wesley Hain (LMCC) 6.05 – 6.20pm |
| <b>Apologies:</b> | -  |

## 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

None

## 3 Guest Speaker – Wes Hain, LMCC

Wes requested to attend the meeting to give board members an update on Council's 'Shape Your Future' activities.

- Council has been engaging across all avenues to encourage input from as many residents and stakeholders as possible.
- Future forums are coming up in September – encourage Sustainable Neighbourhood volunteers to attend. Forum details are on the website.
- Expect the 'Vision, Values and Strategic Direction' component to be completed by end 2016. A Community Strategic Plan will be completed by mid 2017, and an Integrated Landuse Strategy by end 2018.
- The Shape Your Future web portal will be open until the end of September, <http://haveyoursaylakemac.com.au/shapeyourfuture> - encourage contributions from all.
- Results of the vision and values so far include the lake, access (services, facilities, town centres etc), amenity (bushland, beaches, open space), and active lifestyle.

Some discussion regarding question about current concerns about overdevelopment in Toronto area.

## 4 Conflict of interest

None stated.

## 5 Previous meeting

### 5.1 Ordinary meeting minutes, 19 July 2016 as tabled

MOTION: *That the previous meeting minutes dated 19 July 2016, be confirmed as an accurate record.*

Moved: Steve. Seconded: Robyn. Carried

## 5.2 Business arising from the minutes

- Grant application for Dog Management brochure is complete and ready to submit. Just need signatures.
- Example of paper 'I heart my Dog' poop scoop bags – Colin. ACTION: Colin to see if they are available in Australia.

## 6 Correspondence

- Notification of successful grant – for the Greater Charlestown SNG, Pit Pony Park rehabilitation project (Stage 2), \$5000 from the Aust gov Stronger Communities Programme (SCP2000933)
- Draft article received for the Australian Conservation Foundation's Habitat magazine. Responded with minor edits and approval to publish.
- Request for information about the Ocean Action Pod, and availability to attend the Living Smart Festival.
- Request to board members to complete the 'Board Self-Assessment Quiz'
- Request from Margo Smith (LMCC) to Sustainable Neighbourhood Key Contacts, to attend one of their upcoming meetings as part of the Review process.
- Sustainable Neighbourhood News, 27 July and Volunteer Survey request, 4 August
- Request from Greater Charlestown SNG regarding madeira vine infestation in Little Flaggy Creek Reserve. Held over until September meeting.
- Notification of unsuccessful grant – for the Wangi Area SNG, 'Memories Making Mosaics' project, from Suez.

## 7 Treasurers report

### 7.1 Treasurer's report for July 2016

See report attached, below.

MOTION: *That the Treasurers Report is accepted.*

Moved: Jean. Seconded: Steve. Carried.

## 8 For discussion & decision

### 8.1 Living Smart Festival and Plastic Bag Campaign

- **Feedback from Plastic Bag Free NSW**
  - Last August, they presented 12,000 of the petitions to NSW state parliament.
  - They have received our 600 hard copy petitions.
  - They are still collecting the petitions, but are currently reviewing their strategy in this regard, as there has been a number of new developments (container deposit scheme etc)
  - They are meeting Thursday 18 Aug, and will let me know the outcomes of what they plan to do next.
- **Ocean Action Pod and OCCI displays at Living Smart Fest**
  - Currently seeking funding to have the Ocean Action Pod attend and be set up next to the Alliance and OCCI displays. The pod will work in very well with SN messages, and also with Council's Eco Angel program.
- **WWDSNG waste display**
  - The West Wallsend District SNG has offered their waste display boards to use at the Living Smart Festival. Photos of the displays were circulated via email. These will work in well with the existing plans for the displays, and the pod above etc.
  - Steve also has some displays of eg non-plastic coffee cups and reusable 'yoghurt' pouches etc and examples of recyclables that we can use as a display on the day.
- **Plastic Bag Champions**
  - Additional Champion businesses from Toronto have been added to the website. Seeking more contact and website details for them.

- Create display of Champion businesses for LSF
- **Media release**
  - Steve has drafted and circulated a media release, and some subsequent edits from Rachelle and Colin.
  - Suggest development of subsequent media releases to target different media outlets.

RESOLUTION: *To go ahead and send out the media release as circulated. ACTION: Steve will go ahead and send out.*

ACTION: Steve to draft further releases to target different media outlets, and circulate amongst board members for review.

## 8.2 Results of Alliance Board Quiz

Review tasks are underway. So far:

- Alliance Board 'self assessment' quiz completed.
- Volunteer survey developed and distributed, 37 completed so far.
- Currently setting up staff and Board Member attendance at local SNG meetings.
- Rachelle and Colin attended Valentine's August meeting.
- Participant survey developed, and tested at Cardiff Car Boot Sale.
- Stakeholder survey in development.

Jess presented the results of the Alliance Board 'self assessment' quiz. These were also circulated to board members via email. The results highlighted a high level of consistency amongst board members for many of the questions, and some functions areas that could be prioritised for improvement.

Jess will now be in touch with board members to conduct interviews. We expect that the interviews will be useful to draw out further details about board members' experiences and identify opportunities for improvement.

## 8.3 AGM date and Network Celebration

Seeking ideas and feedback about this year's AGM, and networking event. We need to have our AGM some time in November, and it's well time to hold a networking / celebration event as well. There have been some great projects over the last 12 months, eg Old Waste New Art, Nature Play project, Plant Swap, Illegal Dumping project, Reusable bag workshop, Tossers can be Binnars stage 2, Car Boot Sale, Wangi Centenary etc etc that would be good to share amongst the network and wider community.

Suggestion to:

- Hold AGM as part of our normal November board meeting, **Tuesday 15 November**
- Hold a networking / celebration event on a weekend in October / November, to showcase our projects as above, and as a volunteer thank you / end of year celebration etc. Previously we've been to the Belmont Neighbourhood Centre, and to Landcare (Teralba). Some ideas??
  - Might be nice to hold in conjunction with the OWNA exhibition in West Wallsend, **Saturday 8 October**. Would need to see what the West Wallsend SNG think of the idea, and whether there's a suitable place and time we could get together without negatively impacting on their event.
  - Or Plastic free Pot luck lunch / afternoon tea in a park somewhere (with alternate venue for rainy back up)
  - Show and tell at the art gallery, and picnic by the lake?
  - Any other ideas?

# 9 Requests from member groups

## 9.1 Welcome to the Jewells Area Sustainable Neighbourhood Group

Terms of Reference and Membership Register circulated via email.

RESOLUTION: *The Alliance officially ratifies the Terms of Reference for the Jewells Area Sustainable Neighbourhood Group and welcomes them as a new member group of the Alliance.*

Moved: Colin. Seconded: Jean. Carried.

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

Risk assessment circulated via email.

Approved.

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

They have submitted their event application for consideration by Council, and it is currently being reviewed by Council staff. Once they have the details finalised with Council, the relevant details will be circulated to Alliance Board members, and for approval by our insurers.

## **9.4 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.

ACTION: Rachelle, Dot, Indra and Jean will attend

## **9.5 LT Creek SNG – Proposed Local Land Services Grant**

Proposed grant for bush regeneration services in Awaba Conservation Area.

General agreement to not pursue this project at this point.

# **10 Report backs from member groups**

## **10.1 Wangi Area SNG – Grant Application – Memories Making Mosaics**

Grant application submitted to Community Building Partnership, for their 'Memories Making Mosaics' project. Application circulated via email for information.

## **10.2 Greater Charlestown SNG – National Tree Day at Pit Pony Park, 31 July**

Successful and enjoyable day with about 50 people attending, and reports that the park is looking great with the new trees. Some photos from the event are here: <https://www.facebook.com/Pit-Pony-Park-Kahibah-158760570992319/>.

## **10.3 Cardiff Area SNG – National Tree Day at Cardiff South Wetland Landcare site, 31 July**

Also a great day, and a great help to the Landcare group there. About 20 people attended to remove invasive weeds from the site, and plant some new riparian natives.

## **10.4 Cardiff Area SNG – Car Boot Sale, Sunday 14 August**

Great day. Estimated attendance ~300 over the day. People were really happy that the event was happening and are keen to see it become a regular event. Some photos here: <http://eepurl.com/cbCpXH>

## **10.5 LT Creek SNG – Awaba State Conservation Area Campaign update**

- Better Cooranbong SNG have endorsed Awaba SCA(P).
- The Canon Community Environmental Grant Application has been submitted.
- The petition has reached 723 signatures.
- Greg piper talks about Awaba SCA and illegal dumping in his July newsletter.
- Negotiations between Centennial Coal and Crown Lands are still on the table in regards to the illegal dumping issue and land ownership.

- Centennial Coal to put cement blocks adjacent to gates at Freeman's Drive because people are being irresponsible.
- Spokesperson for the Awaba project went out with LMCC staff to view LMCC owned land in Awaba Conservation Area.
- Micro video clip produced and publically put on You Tube.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQt05z0V6Ws>
- Sally and Sami Sugar Gliders have been introduced as Glinda's mates.
- <https://conservewestlakes.wordpress.com/awaba-conservation-area/glinda-the-squirrel-glider-ambassador/sally-and-sami-sugar-glider-twins/>
- Glinda has met Mayoral Candidate Kay Fraser at a TASNG meeting.
- On Tuesday 9 August, Spokesperson addressed Wangi Area SNG. Waiting for a response.
- Grant application clean up some of the illegal dumping.

### **10.6 Toronto Area SNG – Meeting with Cr Fraser**

Now is a good time to invite your Councillors to your meetings ie before the election in September.

### **10.7 Morisset and Peninsula SNG – Transition Streets Challenge**

MAPS have been utilising their monthly meeting to go through the Transition Streets workbook together. The program explores energy and water usage, food, waste and transport over a six month period, and prompts discussion about what they can do in their own homes and community to move towards a more sustainable lifestyle.

For more information about Transition Streets, visit <http://transitionnewcastle.org.au/transition-streets/>.

## **11 For information**

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

Invitations have been sent to all Sustainable Neighbourhood Groups, and requested that at least one volunteer from each group attend.

### **11.2 Website statistics for July 2016**

See chart below

## **12 Meeting close.**

Next ordinary meeting date: Tuesday 20 September, 6-8pm

**Treasurer's Report:**



**LAKE MACQUARIE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS ALLIANCE**

**GENERAL MEETING**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**1 July, to 31 July, 2016.**

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

**Balance** **\$17,466.58CR**

**RECEIPTS**

Interest 0.45c

Total Receipts \$ .45c

**EXPENDITURE**

07 July Chq 000060 Cardiff Area SNG \$ 50.00

07 July Chq 000061 W/Wsnd SNG 240.05

13 July Chq 000062 Andreasens GREEN 2,612.50

Total Expenditure \$ 2,902.55c

**BALANCE** **\$ 14,564.48CR**

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

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Name Jean McGarry

Title Hon Treasurer

Date 9 August, 2016.

# Sustainable Neighbourhoods website activity

November 2014 - July 2016

