

Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance

Ordinary meeting

## MINUTES

**Tuesday 16 July 2019, 6-8pm**

Magenta Room, Council Administration Building, Speers Point



<b>Present</b>	Robyn Charlton, Gabrielle Clappison, Steve Dewar, Naiomi Finlayson, Avril Lockton, Jean McGarry, Colin Mondy, Mark Howells Rachelle McConville (LMCC)
<b>Apologies</b>	Christine Aus

### 1. Acknowledgement of Country

Colin presented an acknowledgement to 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. Conflict of interest

None stated

### 3. For discussion and decision

#### 3.1. New board member nomination

Naiomi submitted her completed Alliance membership form, along with a board nomination form.

*Motion: The board elects Naiomi Finlayson as a new Alliance board member, effective immediately, and until the next AGM.*

Moved: Colin. Seconded: Jean. Carried.

#### 3.2. Plastic Free July

Steve has completed a survey of nearly all coffee shops, pubs and clubs and some shops across all of Lake Macquarie, documenting the type of takeaway coffee cups they provide, and whether they offer a discount for bringing a reusable. Results demonstrate potential for a campaign to encourage reusable cups; and to reduce plastic straw use.

Also noted Newcastle Council's Bring your Own Cup program. Also an opportunity for people around the city to fill in the blanks.

Project idea to apply for Community Litter Grant to purchase reusable cups to supply to public. Noted previous work from Warners Bay Area SNG around this; and similar idea from Chris A. Key consideration is how to ensure the cups are reused, and reducing the potential for them becoming litter/landfill themselves.

Rachelle will forward notes to board. General agreement to investigate the project further.

Additional suggestion to encourage SN members to support their local cafes; enquire about what they are doing to reduce single use items such as coffee cups and plastic straws; and encourage improvements.

#### 3.3. Urban Forest Strategy

Council currently focused on developing Tree Replacement Program. Alliance project ideas to improve community appreciation of trees, including promoting iconic trees as part of a coordinated citywide event; developing a community survey to better understand local attitudes.

Additional ideas include writing to Costa; producing a map display of the trees for the living smart festival.

Arranged meeting to determine details for iconic trees project with Gab, Robyn, Naiomi, Colin and Jean, Mon 22 July, 6pm at Warners Bay Tavern.

#### **4. Previous meeting**

##### **Ordinary meeting minutes 18 June 2019**

*Motion: That the previous meeting minutes, dated 18 June 2019, be confirmed as an accurate record.*

Moved: Robyn. Seconded: Jean. Carried.

##### **Business arising**

- 4.1. Catalogue litter.** Steve was on ABC Newcastle talking about problems with catalogue litter, Recording available here, at about 1:30 into the program, [www.abc.net.au/radio/newcastle/programs/mornings/mornings/11211528](http://www.abc.net.au/radio/newcastle/programs/mornings/mornings/11211528).

Colin noted recent Council responses to 3 separate requests (re catalogues, dog management and 4wds on the beach) that all referred to a lack of ranger resources. Council response suggested the community contact catalogue distributors directly.

#### **5. Treasurer's report**

See attached below.

Moved: Jean. Seconded: Steve. Carried.

#### **6. Correspondence**

- Council's most recent Organisational Structure chart was sent to board members.
- Invitation to attend AGM of Lake Mac Business on 10 July
- Invitation to attend Lake Mac Business's End of Financial Year drinks event, 20 June
- Request from Children's University regarding potential for SN to run school activities – directed to relevant groups near their member schools.
- Notice that our membership of Lake Mac Business has now expired.
- Request to SN Key contacts for estimated volunteer hours for 2018-19.
- Invitation to have a stall at the Belmont Citi Centre Senior's Day on 19 August. Tentative booking sent to Belmont Citi Centre for Alliance to have a stall at their Seniors Day on 19 August
- Request to Council regarding outstanding invoice for Rathmines Litter Project. (Alliance has grant money to contribute to Council cost of bins.)
- Invitation to nominate in the 2019 Commonwealth Bank NFP Treasurer's Awards
- Materials sent to event attendees from SN networking event, including Hunter Community Environment Centre's report, presentation, letter writing guide and info re water quality and community engagement.
- Request to 'My Community Project' staff to confirm eligibility of TRASH Bags project. Their response indicated that they are currently reviewing the projects before voting starts on 15 July, and that we will be notified. Subsequent notification that the project will be included

in the public vote in the Lake Macquarie electorate.

- Invitation to attend grants workshop hosted by Greg Piper MP
- Notification from Greg Piper MP regarding Community Building Partnership grants 2019. Applications will open in September.

## 7. Requests and risk assessments

**7.1. Toronto Picnic in the Park.** Draft Community Funding application was circulated and approved via email, and submitted to Council. Initial feedback from Council suggested small contribution from SN group would improve chances of success. Toronto Area SNG agreed to contribute \$100 to the project.

**7.2. Holmesville Community Garden Spring Fair, 14 September.** Initial risk assessment circulated via email. They will keep us up to date with progress as stallholders and other activities are confirmed.

Note they are also looking for stallholders.

**7.3. Nature Play Adventure – Fire, 14 July.** Risk assessment circulated and approved via email.

**7.4. Redhead Community Garden.** The Redhead SN garden's acceptance of Alliance policy, and their updated risk management plan and site plan was submitted and circulated via email. Hard copy co-signed by board members.

## 8. Reports / for information

**8.1. Strategic Plan progress.** Progress update circulated via email.

**8.2. Volunteer recruitment.** Working document detailing a range of volunteer roles now available and circulated via email. Promotion of these roles is being pushed out one at a time through various channels.

**8.3. Young Leaders.** Have met with 3 young people who have responded to our advertisements. Currently planning a time for them to get together, and helping to connect them with projects and groups they are interested in.

**8.4. Annual Report 2019.** In progress. Similar format to 2018 report. Have collected additional hours from each of the groups, and currently collating volunteer hours / reach etc. Also preparing financial summary for 2018-19, and a few case studies including Repair Café, Waste to Art, Skill sharing and education, and plastic pollution projects.

**8.5. Regional Achievement Awards.** Intending to enter Sustainable Neighbourhoods in the NSW Awards Australia Connecting Communities Award, <https://awardsaustralia.com/regional-achievement-community-awards/nsw/award-entry-criteria/>. Will use the Annual Report information as a basis. Nominations close 31 July 2019.

**8.6. Social Equity.** Received request from Five Bays SNG to: consider the social aspect in lower economic areas throughout our City while developing future action & strategic plans; and consider "Sustainable Neighbourhoods" or "Sustainable Living" to not only consider the Environmental Pillar but the Social Pillar as well.  
Have requested more specific actions or suggested improvements to put to the board, and they will get something back to us prior to August meeting.

**8.7. Living Smart Festival.** Save the dates (Sat 28 and Sun 29 Sept) to help on the Alliance stall with wash up station (both days) and plastic free displays on the Saturday.

Warners Bay Area SNG are applying to provide nature play activities for the festival on both the Saturday and Sunday. WBASNG volunteers (+ others are welcome) to be trained and volunteer on the day. WBASNG will receive a fee from Council for providing the service.

**8.8. Waste to Art.** 25 registrations to date. Most recent registration is from a lady who has made a range of evening gowns out of surgical wrap (surgical wrap is used to keep instruments sterile before use, then thrown away) – the dresses are pretty amazing!

**8.9. TRASH Bags.** Funding application was acceptable, so has been added to the website for public voting. Awaiting marketing plan from Geri and Susan. Projects for each electorate (Lake Macquarie, Charlestown and Swansea) are now up online, and voting is open until 15 August. More information and how to vote: [www.nsw.gov.au/improving-nsw/projects-and-initiatives/my-community-project](http://www.nsw.gov.au/improving-nsw/projects-and-initiatives/my-community-project).

Alliance promotion will focus on TRASH Inc project, particularly encouraging residents in the Lake Macquarie electorate to vote for them. Will also note that there are a bunch of other great projects across all of the electorates.

#### **8.10. Event reports:**

**Winter crop swap.** Disappointingly quiet, <10 visitors (1 from Warners Bay who saw the Newcastle Weekly article). Still raised \$41 for OzHarvest, swapped lots of vegies and had a nice morning. Intend to change venue for September swap to join the Kahibah village markets on Sunday 15 Sep.

**Warners Bay Area SNG stall at Retrosurbia event.** Well worthwhile having a stall there. Collected 17 new contacts.

**Attendance at Newcastle Green Drinks.** Chris, Robyn and Gab spoke about Sustainable Neighbourhoods. Great networking opportunity. People are keen to know more (and wish it was a program in Newc too).

**Cake, conversation and water quality.** Well received, 38 attendees. Raised a number of issues regarding water quality, regulation etc. More info about the HCEC report at [www.hcec.org.au/content/out-ashes](http://www.hcec.org.au/content/out-ashes).

**Plastic Free Redhead.** Distributed reusable bags to shops in Redhead Village. Arranging posters for shops to promote, switching to plastic free in Redhead.

**Pamper Care Project.** Has been running for 2 years; and assisted over 90 people + local organisations in the 2018-19 financial year. Need for assistance is growing, and donations are always welcome.

**Bunnings BBQ.** Pelican Area. A very successful day. Lots of hard work with a good team. We had fun and advanced the sustainable neighbourhood cause. Many people were interested.

**Nature Play Adventure.** Amazing day with 25 children and their families. Opportunities for one on one time for each family. Almost all new people who hadn't participated before. Beautiful weather and lots of learning, eg cooking popcorn without a microwave! Good promo for the living smart fest. Many participants who didn't know each other ended up getting together for lunch afterwards. Also collected 6 big bags of rubbish collected, and took opportunity to educate re recycling.

4 volunteers had to cancel due to illness, but thankful to others who stepped in.

**Eco Angel Clean Up.** Greater Charlestown SNG, 14 July

**New Economy Network Australia workshop.** Jonathan one of the organisers; Robyn spoke on social equity – see powerpoint circulated via email; Sam also attended. An amazing day! Included presentations on My Sequester [www.mysequester.com.au](http://www.mysequester.com.au) - earning money while planting trees; Crowd Funding for Solar Projects - Pingala; Affordable housing; repair and reuse business.

**8.11. Upcoming events:**

- Waste to Art at Charlestown Library – to 10 August
- Holmesville Community Garden Spring Fair (West Wallsend District SNG) - 14 September
- Living Smart Festival, 28 and 29 September
- Waste to Art 2019 exhibition, 12 October – 1 December

**Closed: 7:15pm**

**LAKE MACQUARIE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS ALLIANCE**

**ORDINARY MEETING**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**1 June to 30 June, 2019.**



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

**Balance** **\$ 9,377.69CR**

**RECEIPTS**

20 June Dir Cr LMCC 032106 LMCC12798 (*Payment for 2 grant projects:*

*Cardiff Pollinator Plan and Charlestown Pool Community Garden*)

**\$ 4,326.00**

**Total Income**

**\$ 4,326.00**

**EXPENDITURE**

NIL

NIL

**Total Expenditure**

**\$ NIL**

**BALANCE**

**\$ 13,703.69**

This is a true statement of accounts for the Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhoods Alliance for the period 1 June to 30 June 2019.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Name Jean McGarry

Title Hon Treasurer

Date 15 July, 2019