

Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance

Ordinary meeting

MINUTES

Tuesday 15 October 2019, 6-8pm

Magenta Room, Council Administration Building, Speers Point



Present	Christine Aus, Robyn Charlton, Gabrielle Clappison, Steve Dewar, Naiomi Finlayson, Avril Lockton, Jean McGarry, Mark Howells Rachelle McConville (LMCC)
Apologies	Tom Boyle, Jean McGarry

Note that September meeting was cancelled.

Robyn agreed to Chair the meeting.

1. Acknowledgement of Country

Robyn provided an acknowledgement of Country, 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 express sincere support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

2. Conflict of interest

None stated

3. For discussion and decision

3.1. Chair role

We will elect a new Chairperson at the next meeting, the AGM in November. Colin is happy to remain as Public Officer until then.

Thank you Jean for taking up the Environmental Grants Committee meeting in Sept, and Steve for attending the Coastal Zone Management Committee meeting in October.

3.2. Date and details for SN celebration. Save the date for Saturday 9 November, 2-4pm

Most popular option via email vote: The Swansea Centre - Waste to Art will be there.

Board agreed on following activities:

- Informal afternoon tea
- Ask Graham P to come and talk about street trees
- Ask each SN group to report on one major highlight or issue from 2019.

3.3. Sustainable Neighbourhood T-shirts

Thanks Gab for sourcing a quote for SN t-shirts, and circulating via email.

~\$40-45 each. Cotton blend, polo design, logo placement on front. Three design options were provided.

The board agreed to go ahead with the order process:

- Board agree on design. Most popular email vote from board members was for

Gunmetal/aqua

- Send details to SN membership with invitation to purchase, size chart, ordering details and deadline.
- Members to email their order and size to Rachelle; and deposit their payment direct to Alliance bank account with name as description.
- After deadline, check payment and order details, and go ahead with order.
- Delivery? Aiming to have them ready for SN celebration day, or AGM.

4. Previous meeting

Ordinary meeting minutes 20 August 2019

Motion: That the previous meeting minutes, dated 20 August 2019, be confirmed as an accurate record.

Moved: Steve. Seconded: Gab. Carried.

Business arising

None raised

5. Treasurer's report

See attached below.

Corrected balance figures on August report.

5.1. Internet banking

Agreed at August meeting that we need to switch to internet banking, so that we can make payments more efficiently. Jean to report back about research regarding setting up internet banking account, and options from different banks.

5.2. New bank signatory needed.

Current signatories are Jean, Colin and Steve. Need to update signatories now that Colin has resigned from his board position.

RESOLUTION: The board resolved to add Christine Aus as a new bank account signatory, so that three signatories will now be Jean McGarry, Stephen Dewar and Christine Aus.

Moved: Robyn. Seconded: Gab. Carried.

6. Correspondence

- Gavin and Vicki agreement to participate in Regional Waste Education program videos with Hunter Joint Organisation. Film crew will be attending upcoming Five Bays beeswax wrap workshop on 31 October.
- Invitation to participate in Council heritage / vegetation management project at Wangi and Rathmines – Forwarded to Rathmines Area SNG.
- Sustainable Neighbourhood News, 27 August
- Plastic Free cafes – application submitted to EPA Community Litter Grants
- Notification that Alliance is semi-finalist (but not finalist) in the NSW/ACT Regional Achievement and Community Awards, and invitation to Awards Presentation Dinner in the Blue Mountains, 8 November

- Notification that TRASH Bags vote was unsuccessful
- Free webinars offered for Not-for-profit week
- Invitation to Children’s University Newcastle Graduations 2019, various dates 28 Oct-5 Nov
- Response from Council regarding request to install temporary signage for Value our City’s Trees project. Do not allow signs to be attached to trees. Can do only over the 3 days of the Living Smart Festival.
- Request for volunteers for the Living Smart Festival – sent to key contacts
- Received report of visitor numbers for Charlestown Library while Waste to Art exhibition was installed there, 3 June-13 August 29,517 visits.
- Forwarded notice of Bernie Goodwin Memorial Park Project update to Morisset and Peninsula SNG
- Various correspondence with Waste to Art participants
- Online training opportunity, Legal and ethical responsibilities of board members – sent to board members.
- Invitation to Waste to Art Opening – sent to SN News list, Councillors and Council exec, EPA staff and State Member Yasmin Catley.
- Request to key contacts to hold promotional stall at Seaside Scavenge, 26 October.

7. Requests and risk assessments

- 7.1. Spring plant and produce swap, 15 September. Risk assessment circulated and approved via email.
- 7.2. Bunnings Spring Launch, 14 September. Risk assessment circulated and approved via email.
- 7.3. Nature Play activities at the Living Smart Festival. Risk assessment circulated and approved via email.
- 7.4. Updated stallholder list received from West Wallsend District SNG for their spring fair
- 7.5. Bunnings BBQ risk assessment, 6 October. Risk assessment circulated and approved via email.
- 7.6. Bird Count Breakfast, 20 October. Risk assessment circulated and approved via email
- 7.7. OOSH Clay making activity, 9 October. Risk assessment circulated and approved via email.
- 7.8. Beeswax wrap workshop 31 October. Risk assessment circulated and approved via email.

8. Reports / for information

- 8.1. **Strategic Plan progress.** Progress update will be circulated via email.
- 8.2. **Regional Achievement and Community Awards** – Gala Dinner on 8 November in Blue Mountains. We didn’t make the finals though, so will not be attending.
- 8.3. **Plastic Free Lake Mac.**
 - Community Litter Grant submitted for ‘Plastic Free Cafes’ project to provide reusable coffee cups + to local cafes. Announced early October. If successful, we can deliver a media campaign in November across Lake Macquarie and place reusable cups and straws in Toronto and Warners Bay Cafes. Could target fast food cafes like McDonalds as well. Signs, promotions and media will be involved as well. There is no way present takeaway coffee cups can be recycled or composted so reusable is the way to go.

If not successful with the EPA grant, we could go for a smaller Council one in the new round in early 2020 (Feb/March).

- Toronto Area SNG is also looking at a campaign to reduce plastics in supermarkets – in particular in relation to pre-packaged fruit and veg. Eg focus on reducing use of heavy plastic bags + suggesting they place the reusable vegie bags close to where the vegies are.
- Keila with Pelican Area SNG are planning on approaching 4 businesses in Marks Point about switching to 'plastic free'. Starting there and will move on to Blacksmiths once they are more confident.

8.4. Using Zoom. Feedback from trial meeting. Generally found it useful and easy to use. Allows people to join in see each other, or not see each other, hear each other and/or mute the sound, if one was multitasking or in a shared space and wanted to listen but not be active in the conversation at any point in time.

40 minute time limit (on free version) is annoying, but just need to close the session and send out a new invitation.

Worth suggesting to rest of SN network that it's a useful tool, <https://zoom.us/>.

8.5. Value our City's Trees. Council only willing to approve signage for the duration of the Living Smart Festival, to ensure consistency with usual Council policy. In general Council does not allow signs to be affixed to trees, and don't want to set a precedent.

Next project meeting 27 October.

Suggestion that a community network could be set up to assist with Council's Tree Replacement Program – for example to help water and care for new trees until they are established. Seek advice from Graham Prichard about where this is up to – include at celebration event.

8.6. Cardiff Pollinator Project. Have postponed the planting until after February because of dry conditions. Also considering how to include low tech irrigation as part of the project to help plantings get established.

8.7. Coastal Zone Management Committee Meeting, October. The meeting discussed the Ash Dam, Belmont State Park, Heavy Metal monitoring, Pelican and Blacksmith foreshore stabilising, finer plastic traps.

8.8. Annual Report 2019. In progress. Draft text finalised. Currently with graphic design.

8.9. Alliance AGM, Tuesday 19 November. Rachelle will send out notice and nomination forms this week.

8.10. Nominations open – Lake Mac Awards, <https://better.lakemac.com.au/Our-Council/Lake-Mac-Awards>. We've received suggestions to submit nominations for Nico Marcar and Toni Quinn. Submissions are due 31 October.

8.11. Event and project reports:

2040 Screening. Great success, 145 tickets sold, wonderful ambience and showcase of SNG. Good audience discussion focusing on local issues. Great to partner with Doctors for the Environment. Regal was also great to work with – they will have another 2040 screening in October. Question about value of using Fanforce, and the % they take from the event.

Holmesville Community Garden Spring Fair. Lovely day. About 200 attendance. ~20 new contacts from Alliance stall. The event raised over \$350 for the community garden. The

Repair Cafe was popular with 14 clothes being repaired and 9 tools sharpened.

Spring Plant and Produce Swap. Raised \$220.20 for OzHarvest, and had a lovely day. Swapped one produce item, but 'sold' lots for donation. Nice conversations about the group and a new sign up. Consider purpose of event, and whether there is demand for swapping as opposed to a market stall. Propose holding the December swap at the Pool Garden site.

Living Smart Festival. Sat 28 and Sun 29 September.

Super busy weekend, and very successful! Council estimated that over 35,000 people attended over the weekend. Massive thanks to volunteers who made this happen.

Need more weights for the marquees + more giveaways / brochures / activities for kids?

- Signed up over 160 new contacts – will send relevant contacts to local groups soon.
- Over 250 coffee cups washed on Saturday
- 14 volunteers over the 2 days, contributing 42 volunteer hours at the SN stall
- + Nature Play volunteers and contacts
- Value our trees installation

Waste to Art. Exhibition now on until 1 December. Great range of works expressing waste messages. Opening night was very successful. About 60 attending, including Cr Nick Jones (Deputy Mayor), Tony Farrell (Deputy CEO) and John Ferguson (Director service Delivery).

Repair Café. In partnership with Morisset Uniting Church. Very well attended, about 100 over the course of the day. Busy and productive. Women's Shed volunteers there, and retired electrician.

8.12. Upcoming events:

- Boomerang Bags Sewing workshop, 27 October
- Beeswax wrap workshop, 31 October
- SN Celebration event, 9 November
- Repair Café, Warners Bay, 16 November
- Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance AGM, 19 November
- Boomerang Bags Sewing workshop, 24 November
- Dreaming of a Waste Free Christmas workshop, 1 December
- Summer Plant and Produce Swap, 7 December - TBC

Closed: 7:20pm

LAKE MACQUARIE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS ALLIANCE



GENERAL MEETING

TREASURER'S REPORT

1 August to 31 August, 2019.

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

Balance **\$ 13,725 .79CR**

RECEIPTS

17 July Cash Deposit \$ 5.00

Total Income **\$ 5.00**

EXPENDITURE

NIL NIL

Total Expenditure \$ NIL

BALANCE **\$ 13,730.79CR**

This is a true statement of accounts for the Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhoods Alliance for the period 1 August to 31 August 2019.

Signed _____

Name Jean McGarry

Title Hon Treasurer

Date 17 August, 2019.

LAKE MACQUARIE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS ALLIANCE



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

Signed _____

Name Jean McGarry

Title Hon Treasurer

Date 14 October, 2019.