

# Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance

## Ordinary Meeting

### MINUTES

Tuesday 18 October 2016, 6.00 - 8.00pm

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



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

## 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

Robyn Charlton, Dot Seiffert

## 3 Conflict of interest

None reported.

## 4 Previous meeting

### 4.1 Ordinary meeting minutes, 20 September 2016 as tabled

MOTION: *That the previous meeting minutes dated 20 September 2016, be confirmed as an accurate record.*

MOVED: Steve. SECONDED: Jean. Carried.

### 4.2 Business arising from the minutes

- Paper/cardboard 'I heart my Dog' poop scoop bags. Colin contacted the suppliers in the Netherlands to see if they are available in Australia. The cost for 750 bags is AUD\$73 (= \$0.09/bag). But with the shipping it would be AUD\$204 for 750 bags (= \$0.27/bag).

**ACTION: Colin will follow up with manufacturers to investigate possibility of licencing a similar product in Australia. Or to find existing Australian manufacturers.**

## 5 Correspondence

- Letter to Lisa Wriley stating the Alliance's support for their campaigns, and requesting to formally become an ally of the Boomerang Alliance
- Various correspondence with Guild Insurance about the Wangi Centenary Event.
- Sustainable Neighbourhood News – 29 September
- New contacts from the Living Smart Festival were emailed to relevant local group contacts.
- Launch of the Hunter Regional Plan 2036, [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/hunter](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/hunter).

MOTION: *That the correspondence be accepted.*

Moved: Steve. Seconded: Jean. Carried.

## 6 Treasurers report

### 6.1 Treasurer's report for September 2016

See report attached, below.

MOTION: *That the Treasurers Report is accepted.*

Moved: Jean. Seconded: Colin. Carried.

Noted that the balance is currently over \$19,000, but that most of this is grant funds for specific Sustainable Neighbourhood projects, so needs to be available, and is unable to be invested.

## 7 For discussion & decision

### 7.1 Lake Macquarie Coastal Wetlands Park Proposal

Following the information evening held on 11 October, volunteers from Redhead, Greater Charlestown and the Belmont Wetlands State Park have agreed to work together to campaign for this proposal to become reality.

#### **Background**

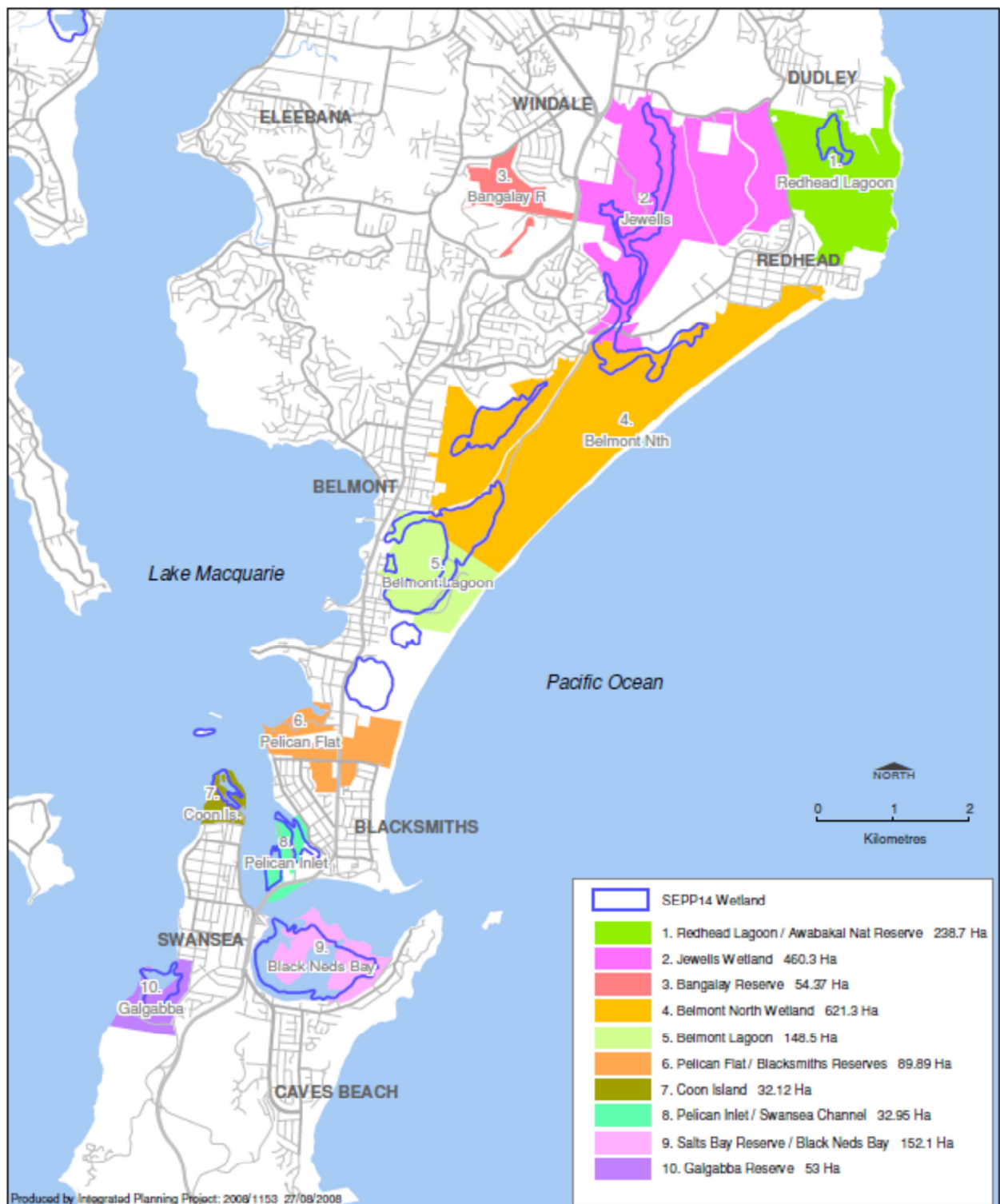
The Lake Macquarie Coastal Wetlands Park proposal was initiated by community groups and was formally endorsed by Lake Macquarie City Council in 2005. The park proposal covers 10 separate areas of land over a distance of about 15 km on the eastern side of Lake Macquarie. The total area is 1,730 ha, owned by a number of State Government agencies and Council.

The concept of the park is to provide for cooperative and consistent management of the significant wetland and natural areas, and improve protection and management.

*Proposal: That the Alliance support the campaign to progress a Lake Macquarie Coastal Wetlands Park.*

Moved: Jean. Seconded: Steve. Carried.

# LAKE MACQUARIE COASTAL WETLANDS PARK PROPOSAL



## 7.2 Australia Day Award Nominations

Suggested nominations:

- Community Group of the Year – Cardiff Area Sustainable Neighbourhood Group
- Community Event of the Year – Wangi Centenary Celebrations
- Also suggestions for Volunteer of the Year nominations.

Nominations are due 28 October.

**ACTION:** Rachelle to go ahead and submit nominations.

## 7.3 Annual General Meeting

The AGM is scheduled for our next regular meeting time: Tuesday 15 November, 6-8pm.

Nominations for Alliance Board Members are invited. More info, nomination forms etc are here: [www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/alliance-agm-2016](http://www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/alliance-agm-2016).

AGM agenda items:

1. Welcome and background
2. Confirm minutes of last AGM
3. Chair's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Appointment of Board Members and Office Bearers
6. Meeting Close

Indra, Steve, Norbert and Jean submitted their nomination forms.

## 7.4 Networking and 'Show and Tell' Event

The Landcare Resource Centre is booked for **Saturday 3 December, 2-5pm**.

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

Discussed the possible structure and objectives for the gathering.

Agreed that the most valuable component is for volunteers from across the city to have discussion based around particular topics. For example:

- How have you successfully recruited new members?
- What projects should we be addressing at a citywide level?
- What resources or other organisations have you found useful?
- How do you manage your group dynamics?

Would be good to circulate questions beforehand to give participants some time to think about the topics.

Also to circulate a list of everyone's projects from the last 18 months, prior to the event.

A project presentation could be good to break the ice a bit, and provide some context for discussion to follow.

Suggested a plastic free afternoon tea (avoiding single use packaging and plastics. Tupperware and reusable plastics are good.) Rachele to provide some basics, and also to ask participants to bring something plastic free.

**ACTION: Rachele to go ahead and organise based on ideas above.**

## 8 Requests from member groups

### 8.1 Wangi Centenary Celebration, Sunday 23 October

Initial event application and risk assessment were circulated via email in September, and the Alliance Board has approved in principle, pending receipt of necessary paperwork, and approval by Alliance insurer and Council.

The event application is still under consideration by Council staff, and awaiting a few final details.

The details were sent to our insurers, and we were notified that:

*"in respect to the Jumping Castle we do not cover any claim in respect of entertainment rides involving animals or mechanical devices including but not limited to merry-go-rounds, trains rides, dodgem or other similar rides, air filled castles, pony rides, tractor rides or any other such rides or*

*amusements. As you are the Event organiser you have a responsibility and duty of care and in the event of litigation you could still be pulled into a claim with the Jumping Castle owner. You would be up for any legal fees and litigation outcome. E.g. if the Jumping Castle owner is held 95% responsible and the organiser was 5% and the Litigation Awarded was \$1,000,000 the organiser would be up for \$50,000 plus legal fees to fight the claim."*

The possibility of the scouts having a climbing wall was also proposed, but assumed that it would come under the same restriction as the jumping castle.

Based on that advice, the WASNG decided not to have the jumping castle, or climbing wall there. Following some additional requests for information, the insurers have now confirmed coverage for the event (excluding a jumping castle or climbing wall).

The email conversation was circulated via email.

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

Request circulated via email in September. 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. Greater Charlestown SNG are planning to request a meeting with relevant Landcare and Council staff.

## **8.3 Cardiff SNG stall at Halloween**

Risk assessment circulated via email. Feedback given to ensure the milk cartons are cleaned thoroughly.

Approved.

## **8.4 Stall at Toronto Spring Fair, Saturday 22 October**

Covered by Coal Point Progress Association.

## **8.5 Request to Hunter Water Community Consultative Committee from Pelican Area SNG**

Request circulated via email.

Following the review meeting with the Pelican Area Sustainable Neighbourhood Group, they asked that the Alliance present their request to the Hunter Water Consultative Committee. The request refers to a Hunter Water pipe that is blocking a drainage channel, and results in localised flooding issues.

**ACTION: Jean to forward request on to Hunter Water Consultative Committee to request a response about the issue, and report on it at the next committee meeting. Also send a copy of the request through Hunter Water's generic customer service avenue.**

## **8.6 Greater Charlestown SNG - Project variation request – Pit Pony Park Rehabilitation Project (Stage 2)**

Following further community engagement, an amended project plan has been prepared, with the following changes:

- Exclusion of the excavated sleeper reinforced step. Community feedback confirms that the proposed edging is unnecessary. Instead, the trees will be planted directly into an earthen berm.
- This impacts the budget by removing the need for and cost of extra materials (originally proposed as a cash contribution of \$1,005 from the GCSNG), and increasing the in-kind contribution, as the cost of a excavator driver (\$440) is now being donated.
- This change also impacts the project's expected completion date. We would like to reschedule the community planting day to National Tree Day in July 2017 to avoid hot and dry conditions over summer, and leverage promotion associated with National Tree Day.

It is planned to submit this request to the Stronger Communities Programme grants administrators to ensure they are adhering to the grant agreement.

Approved.

## 8.7 Cardiff Area SNG – Car Boot Sale

Circulated via email.

Approved.

## 9 Report backs from member groups

### 9.1 Living Smart Festival

Super weather, and reported attendance of 20,000.

The Sustainable Neighbourhoods stall was busy all day, with 17 volunteers helping out over the day. 300 letters collected, and 137 new contacts for Sustainable Neighbourhood groups.

General feedback about the stall set up was that we could have made better use of the West Wallsend group's waste displays. It was difficult for people to see them, and people were reluctant to enter the space under the marquees. We almost ran out of sign up sheets and blank letters. Would also be good to have some additional clipboards for multiple volunteers to use to collect sign ups at the same time.

The Dudley Community Garden group also thanked the Alliance for assisting with insurance coverage for their stall on the day. They had a similarly successful day.

### 9.2 LT Creek SNG – Awaba State Conservation Area Campaign - October update

- Glinda has her own Instagram account - [www.instagram.com/glindathesquirrelglider](https://www.instagram.com/glindathesquirrelglider).
- Glinda is gaining support on the [political front as well](#). Glinda was super busy at the [Living Smart Festival](#) and [other events](#). She also went to her first local SNG meeting and Council Chambers Meeting, where she had her photo taken with Cr Belcher and Cr Langford.
- Lake Macquarie Landcare Network Committee have endorsed the Conservation Area.
- Coal Point Progress Association discussed the Conservation Area and the petition in their [latest Newsletter](#).
- Tom Farrell Institute write about the Conservation Area in [their newsletter](#).

### 9.3 LT Creek SNG – Cat Care Brochure

- An additional 20 copies were distributed in Blackalls Park

### 9.4 LT Creek SNG – Noticeboard

- Received positive feedback about how interesting the noticeboard is.

### 9.5 Report back – Sustainable Neighbourhoods review so far

Review tasks completed this month:

- Volunteer survey report nearing completion.
- 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, Pelican Area, Jewells Area, LT Creek, Morisset and Peninsula and Greater Charlestown now complete. Thanks for board member participation.

### 9.6 Wetland Wonders - Redhead, Dudley, Greater Charlestown and Jewells Area, 11 October

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.

Successful evening – about 25 people attended, and created some enthusiasm and support for the creation of the Lake Macquarie Coastal Wetlands Park.

### 9.7 Old Waste, New Art

Lots of really great and interesting artworks, but not as many entrants as last year.

## **10 For information**

### **10.1 Website statistics for September 2016**

See chart below

### **10.2 Holidays**

Rachelle will be on leave: Wed 26 October – Tuesday 8 November

And Avril is going to India: 2 November – 30 November

## **11 Meeting close.**

Next ordinary meeting and AGM date: Tuesday 15 November, 6-8pm

## Treasurer's Report:



### LAKE MACQUARIE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS ALLIANCE

#### GENERAL MEETING

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

1 September, to 30 September, 2016.

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

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

#### RECEIPTS

Interest	0.42c
30 Sept Dept. Inf. & Reg. Devel. – Greater Charlestown SNG	\$ 5,000.00

Total Receipts \$ 5,000.42

#### EXPENDITURE

Total Expenditure \$NIL

**BALANCE** **\$ 19,564.90CR**

This is a true statement of accounts for the Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhoods Alliance for the period 1 September to 30 September, 2016.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Name Jean McGarry

Title Hon Treasurer

Date 12 October, 2016.



