

Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance

Ordinary Meeting

MINUTES

Tuesday 20 October 2015, 6.00 – 8.00pm

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



Invitees:	Norbert Lica, Avril Lockton, Colin Mondy, Dot Seiffert, Steve Dewar Rachelle McConville (LMCC)
Apologies:	Jean McGarry, Christine Aus (leave)

1 Welcome & acknowledgement of Country

Colin read the 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 reported.

4 Previous meeting

4.1 Ordinary meeting minutes, 15 September 2015 as circulated

MOTION: That the previous meeting minutes dated 15 September 2015, be confirmed as an accurate record.

MOVED: Colin

SECONDED: Dot

Passed unanimously.

4.2 Business arising from the minutes

- **Grant Expression of Interest: 'Memories Making Mosaics'** – Wangi Area SNG – Submitted to the Stronger Communities Program (Charlton) (Aust Government Dept of Infrastructure and Regional Development.) - Unsuccessful
- **Grant application: Wangi Scarecrow Competition Awards Day** – Wangi Area SNG
Grant application was submitted to Council's Community Funding Program to cover costs of the awards day. Decision will be made at Council meeting on 26 October.
- **Grant Expression of Interest: 'Pit Pony Park Rehabilitation Project'** – Greater Charlestown SNG – Submitted to the Stronger Communities Program (Shortland) (Aust Government Dept of Infrastructure and Regional Development.) – Unsuccessful??
- Deferred from last month: Sponsorship targets. Have decided that Suez environnement and Umwelt could be good as possible sponsor organisations. Just need someone with some time to research the organisations and tailor the existing sponsorship proposal to appeal to them.

ACTION: Steve will research Suez, and incorporate relevant options to make our offer appealing to them.

ACTION: Rachelle will make contact between Umwelt staff and Colin with a view to similarly targeting them as a possible sponsor.

→ Both of these with a view to making an appointment with relevant decision-makers in the organisation to put our case forward.

5 Correspondence

- Welcome (again) to the Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance – sent to Morisset and Peninsula SNG committee, 17 September.
- Invitation for SNGs to participate in the Super Sunday Bike Count, 17 September & 7 October
- Judge's feedback regarding our Regional Achievement and Community Awards nomination, 21 September
- Nominations open for the 2015 Charlton Volunteer Awards – invitation from Pat Conroy's office, 1 October. Nominations due 13 November.
- Annual report for Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood, 13 October
- Annual report for Dudley Sustainable Neighbourhood, 15 October
- Thank you letter to Susan Denholm for her contribution to the board, 20 October

MOTION: That the correspondence be accepted

MOVED: Steve

SECONDED: Dot

6 Treasurers report

Jean had sent through a Treasurer's report for September, but Rachelle had suggested some corrections to the balance (dating back from March and June). In Jean's absence, Rachelle reported the following transactions for September 2015.

Description	Project / payment detail	Income	Expenditure	Balance
Opening balance				\$ 6,123.26
Interest credit	-	0.09		\$ 6,123.35
Chq 000050	Dudley - Community Garden - C. Parkes reimbursement		167.48	\$ 5,955.87
Chq 000051	Dudley - Community Garden - A. Pike reimbursement		481.3	\$ 5,474.57
Closing balance				\$ 5,474.57

MOTION: That the interim Treasurer's Report be accepted.

MOVED: Steve

SECONDED: Norbert

7 For discussion & decision

7.1 IPART Fit For the future report – implications for SN and Alliance

[\(News article and link to full report available here.\)](#)

Discussed the need to highlight success of SN program and it's uniqueness. If a merge goes ahead, there are likely implications for SN program and possible withdrawal of support from Council within 3 years. This makes it more urgent for Alliance and SN network to become independent and self-sufficient. Could also be an opportunity to expand SN program to Newcastle.

Could also use political community power (eg talking with local Members) to demonstrate the importance of the SN program.

A report from Council staff is being presented to the Council meeting scheduled for 26 October – Rachele to send copy of report to Board members.

ACTION: Rachele to ask Chris Harle to come to next meeting to help us find a way forward in terms of business and strategic planning for the long term self sufficiency of the Alliance and SN network.

7.2 AGM and Celebration - Some proposed changes:

Sunday 15 November. (To avoid clash with community garden network event on the Saturday.)

Venue: Belmont Neighbourhood Centre.

Thought this would be a nice change, and that we could have a look at the Habitat in Harmony community garden as well. The Neighbourhood Centre can also provide yummy catering, which will also be a nice change, and will avoid SN volunteers having to do the cooking.

Steve has also suggested that we give 10 min to Alec Roberts from CLEANaS 10min to talk about his community renewable energy projects.

Possible schedule:

10.30 – 11.00: AGM

11.00 – 12.30: Show and Tell and networking opportunity

12.30 – 1.30: Lunch and garden tour + Alec from CLEANaS

RESOLUTION: Promote with Alec and garden as a feature to encourage attendance.

Rachele asked board members to consider whether they are planning to nominate again for their board roles. Forms will be sent out soon. Likely to be looking for someone to take on the Secretary role.

7.3 Plastic bag campaign

Steve has approached the EPA as suggested to enquire about what initiatives they are working on. Their response was that reducing plastic bags is a big priority to them. Mentioned things like Clean Up Aust Day, but not really much concrete action.

- Search for 'Plastic Bag Free' Champions:
 - Request sent to SN groups / membership
 - Steve has approached Bunnings, Aldi and the Teralba Takeaway. Bunnings and Aldi need to check with their head offices first.
 - Jackie at the Teralba Takeaway is very keen. Her details have been added to the website.
ACTION: Rachele will contact her to see what message she would like to put on her certificate / sign.
Rachele will email copy of sign template to board members to use as an example to find other champions.
 - Would also be good to demonstrate our support for the REDCycle recycling points at the supermarkets.
ACTION: Avril will ask at Morisset Coles and Jean will ask at Charlestown Coles about whether we can add a 'sign' or similar, and what kind of thing we could include.
- Feedback has been good from recent stalls etc – especially re the search for local businesses to be champions
- Recent public events went well:
 - Living Smart Festival – 86 new sign ups and 166 petitions signed
 - Smart Cities Conference & Senior's Expo – 38 new sign ups and 141 petitions signed

Signed petitions have been scanned, and Rachelle has emailed the Plastic Bag Free Alliance to see how best to get the petitions to them.

8 Requests from member groups

8.1 Risk assessment: Wangi Scarecrow Competition – Wangi Area SNG

Risk assessment circulated via email. Approved.

(Two risk assessments have been requested – one for the competition overall and a separate one for the Awards Day event. This is the one for the competition overall.)

The management plan was approved at our September meeting.

8.2 Risk assessment: Business briefing for Wangi Centenary, 26 October – Wangi Area SNG

Risk assessment circulated via email. Approved.

8.3 Risk assessment: Community Celebration and SNAP Launch, 31 October – Morisset and Peninsula SNG

Risk assessment circulated via email. Approved.

8.4 Risk assessment: Alliance stall at Rathmines Catalina Festival, Sunday 25 October

RESOLUTION: To not have a stall at the Catalina Festival this year – everyone is “festivalled out”.

8.5 Risk assessment: Cardiff area stall at John Young Community Hall Open Day, 31 October – Cardiff Area SNG

Risk assessment circulated via email. Approved.

8.6 Request: Alliance stall and presentation at Senior’s Expo, Thurs 19 November

10am – 1pm at Club Macquarie, Being organised by Pat Conroy’s Office.

RESOLUTION: Board agreed to have a stall there, and for Norbert to do a presentation if there is a spot for him. Can use existing powerpoint ([Rachelle to update](#)).

ACTION: Norbert to submit risk assessment by 29 October.

9 Report backs from member groups

9.1 Eco Health Expo – Grant acquittals requested.

9.2 Toronto Area – Tossers can be binners stage 2 – Fast food rubbish

Steve tabled an outline of the Toronto Area Sustainable Neighbourhood Group’s upcoming project – see attached below.

Students from Toronto High School are engaged in a competition to design the signs.

9.3 Alliance stall at the Living Smart Festival Stall, 26 September

See report on plastic bag campaign above. Would be good to have giveaways directed at kids – eg rainbow pencils, waste activity packs, reusable bags were good.

9.4 Stall at the Swansea Springtime Festival - Caves Beach–Swansea Area SNG, 26 September

Good day with lots of interest in the stall. Renee focussed on plastic bag campaign and gave away 100 bags. Other SN members focussed on RFS Bushfire Ready message.

9.5 Sustainable Vegie workshop – Coorabong SNG, 29 September

40 participants. Lovely feedback from participants that it was very informative and helpful. Lachlan Storrie was a great presenter youthful and engaging. [Avril to send photos to Rachelle.](#)

9.6 Alliance stall at Senior's Expo, 2 October

Lots of interest.

9.7 Alliance stall at Smart Cities Conference, 3 October

Lots of cool eggs of renewable technology eg Tesla cars and batteries, solar paint. BZE had a model of concentrated solar thermal power plant. Opportunity for future partnership with Tom Farrell Institute.

Discussion about a book purchased by Norbert at the conference, "The Energy – Freedom Home" by Beyond Zero Emissions. It cost \$40 and was purchased on behalf of the Alliance but without discussion with the Board first.

RESOLUTION: That in this instance, Norbert be reimbursed for the cost of the book (\$40) upon presentation of a receipt. But that this should not set a precedent for purchasing any items on the Alliance's behalf without proper prior consultation and approval. Any purchases made by an individual without board approval is at the individual's own risk of not being reimbursed.

9.8 Old Waste New Art Competition, West Wallsend District SNG, 10 October

Good media article: <http://www.newcastlestar.com.au/story/3387858/programmed-to-cut-waste/>

Exhibition and event went very well. A wonderful range of creative items were submitted. Estimate about 200 people attended over the day. They added two more contacts to their email list and generated a lot of interest in their activities. Looking forward to next year's event.

9.9 Cardiff Area SNG Launch and Celebration, 11 October

Event went very well. Estimate about 70 people attended. The mayor attended and officially launched the new group. Summary available here: www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/plant-swap.html

9.10 TASNG stall at Toronto Spring Fair, 17 October

Went well. Couple of new sign ups, and lots of petitions signed.

9.11 New Sustainable Neighbourhood Areas

Council is currently surveying residents in 'Warners Bay Area' (includes Croudace Bay, Eleebana, Lakelands, Macquarie Hills and Warners Bay), and 'Rathmines Area' (includes Rathmines, Balmoral and Fishing Point). Both surveys close 30 October. Aiming to have both of these new groups up and running by the end of 2016.

9.12 Dora Creek – emergency Preparedness Award

9.13 Redhead AGM

Existing committee stood down. Four new committee members put their hands up and additional volunteer offers (eg for newsletter distribution)

Great outcome for renewal of a group and to make the group itself sustainable in the long term. The AGM request / invitation was very good for letting people know that there were jobs to do, and that the future of the group needed their participation.

Training in volunteer management and role defining and delegation would be helpful for all SN groups.

10 General business

10.1 Sustainability grants committee meeting

5 submissions received this round. Assessment sheet was amended for the next round so that the process is improved.

11 For information only

- Alliance website activity for September: 900 unique visitors, 4478 pageviews.
Some extra stats from the website:

Top 5 pages, for September (to 17 September):	
296	home
64	cardiff-area
55	nature-play
40	west-wallsend-district
38	latest-news
35	plastic-bag-campaign

Keywords (ie Words that people searched with and ended up on our site)

- sustainability in your neighbourhood in education project
- marmong point community garden
- dudley nature play
- Developing sustainable neighbourhoods
- sustainable neighbourhood group
- sustainable neighbourhood alliance
- sustainable neighbourhood
- sustainability in our neighbourhood
- sustainability in beach suburbs
- project plan centenary celebrations
- owest wallsend district sustainable neighbourhood group
- morisset and peninsula sustainable neighbourhood group
- list of local level environmental organisation.
- <http://sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/>
- dudley sustainably group
- Dora Creek Catchment location
- dora creek catchment lake macquarie
- dora creek catchment
- content
- beach side for sale caves beach
- 2015 flood pictures dora creek nsw

12 AGM: Sunday 15 November

Next ordinary meeting date: Tuesday 17 November, 6-8pm

Agenda item for November. Come with suggestions about how local group members can better manage their groups and share the responsibilities with other volunteers.

13 Meeting close

Attachment: TASNG Project Outline

CAMPAIGN ABOUT FAST-FOOD LITTER-TOSSERS CAN BE BINNERS/STAGE 2

Toronto Area Sustainable Neighbourhood group, in conjunction with Toronto Tidy Towns and Toronto Workers Club, will be running a campaign to try to change people's behaviour in regards to fast-food rubbish littering public roads and areas around Toronto and its environment. Originally, we were going to make it a wider campaign than just Toronto, as this is a major problem across West Lake Macquarie and indeed Australia. Hopefully this can be a model for other areas. We have provisional approval for the campaign from all the fast-food operators in Toronto-McDonalds, Henny Penny, Dominos, Subway and Pizza Hut. This is a complex campaign as it involves dealing with many franchises and convincing them that this will give them a positive image in the community for their business and not the opposite. Also, again, we will have to get approval from the Lake Macquarie City Council bureaucracy for the signs.

This is an educational campaign to try and change behaviour about fast-food littering. We cannot endlessly be picking up for thoughtless people! Toronto High School students can enter a competition to design the signs around the theme of "Tossers can be Bidders". These metal signs can go up at the fast-food restaurants and on the metal bins around the Toronto shopping area.

A major launch is planned for "Clean-up Australia" Day on March 6 2016, which will take place at McDonalds Toronto. Politicians and the media will be invited and information given out to encourage particularly "Drive-in" customers to bin their rubbish. McDonalds will be invited to encourage recycling by using one of the new LMCC bigger yellow-topped bins.

A "Clean-up Australia" event will then occur along the main road of Toronto (Carey St/Anzac Pde/ Main Rd) to the Fennel Bay Bridge as most fast-food drive-through rubbish is dropped from cars up to and beyond about 1 kilometre. (Outline Steve Dewar for TASNG 18/10/2015)