Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan

2010-2020

Welcome to our Sustainable Neighbourhood

Sustainable Living

Community Communications and Connections

Protect and Improve Our Natural Environment

Redhead Men's Shed

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A Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood initiative

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Acronyms

RSN   Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood
SNAP   Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan
LMSNA   Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance
LMCC   Lake Macquarie City Council

Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood Meetings

Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood meetings
are held monthly.
For details, see the website:
www.sustainableredhead.wordpress.com

1. Background

The Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program

Reducing our ecological footprint neighbourhood by neighbourhood

Through the *Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program* Lake Macquarie City Council partners with its residents to plan and promote local action; enhance and protect their natural environment; reduce their ecological footprint, and increase community connectivity and resilience.

The *Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program* enables residents to develop a vision for their neighbourhood, articulate local values, uncover neighbourhood assets, and develop a local action plan to address neighbourhood challenges. The *Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program* is about individuals and groups collectively taking responsibility to ensure that their unique environment remains sustainable for future generations.

The Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood Initiative

Redhead is a vibrant community with a history of community action and environmental protection. In February 2010, a group of dedicated residents embraced *the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program* proposal and worked with Council to conduct a series of community engagement activities within the Redhead community. These activities were designed to elicit content for the development of the Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan.

This Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan is a living document that will be reviewed and adapted on an annual basis by *Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood*.

2. About Redhead

Redhead, the traditional land of the Awabakal people, is located in Lake Macquarie City and is part of the Hunter Region of New South Wales, Australia. It is a coastal community situated 15 minutes from Newcastle and two hours from Sydney. Redhead is bounded by natural geographic features including the Pacific Ocean to the east, the Awabakal Nature Reserve to the north, Jewells Wetland to the west and Belmont Lagoon to the south.

The neighbourhood contains a dynamic village with nine precinct areas. It is characterised by its beach and outdoor lifestyle. Features include Redhead Beach which stretches 'Nine Miles' down to Blacksmiths Beach in the south; the Fernleigh Track shared cycleway and walkway, which connects the community to Lake Macquarie in the south and the Hunter River in the north. Redhead attracts a broad range of national and international visitors.

Redhead contains seven of the City's nine ecosystem types including forest, woodland, heath, wetlands, ocean, coast and waterways.

As is the case with most urban bushland areas, the natural assets of Redhead are deeply treasured by neighbours but are unfortunately under considerable pressure. These pressures are brought about by disturbance, disconnection and a range of modern day living activities.

Redhead was founded on a rich history of coal mining. Collieries operated from late 1880s to January 1992. Three Colliery buildings are standing today in Redhead Grange Estate, protected by a heritage order. Much of Redhead sits on a maze of underground tunnels created during this coal mining era. The Adamstown to Belmont (via Fernleigh) Railway Line, now the Fernleigh Track, connected Redhead's Lambton B Colliery to Newcastle.

3. Redhead's Population

Redhead is home to 3337 people in 1261 households. Population growth between 2001 and 2006 was 4.4%, whereas the Lake Macquarie City average was 3.1%. The average age of residents is 44 years. This is slightly higher than the City average of 40 years.

There is a high level of home ownership with 52% of properties fully owned compared to the City average of 40%, and a relatively low level of unemployment at 5.3% compared with 6.7%. Main employment sectors in the neighbourhood include managers, professionals, technicians and trade workers.

The community of Redhead is populated by long-term residents and those who have arrived more recently. Its citizens are committed to their place and have a strong tradition of community action and volunteering.

Community research indicates that the preservation of the natural environment is the single biggest environmental issue for Redhead residents. Key issues include weeds and feral animals, dune degradation, waterway pollution, irresponsible pet ownership and illegal dumping. The research also suggests that sustainable homes and sustainable living are important to residents.

4. Redhead's Community Vision

Redhead's Community Vision was developed following engagement with residents about community values and needs. Engagement actions included meetings, workshops, youth activities and a community survey. Our vision is:

To enjoy, celebrate, and sustain our coastal village community, its assets, and our beautiful natural environment so that Redhead has a healthy future.

5. Redhead's Community Values

We value our:

- peaceful village atmosphere;
- beach culture and healthy outdoor lifestyle;
- magnificent natural environment and rich cultural heritage;
- convenient and diverse range of local services;
- enterprising community people;
- community's potential to keep Redhead a special place; and
- ability to make local decisions so that we can provide support for each other.

6. Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood Coordinating Group

This Group, formed by local residents, will utilise a participatory democracy process to coordinate the implementation, evaluation and review of the Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan and associated community projects.

Aim: To support activities associated with *Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood* by:

- establishing decision-making mechanisms that are inclusive and democratic;
- encouraging neighbourhood representation and participation;
- promoting and supporting *Sustainable Neighbourhood* projects; and
- developing a regular review process of the Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan.

Getting involved: Please refer to *Contact Us* on page two.

7. The Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood Area

Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood community projects will be focused within the Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood area shown in Figure 1 (map).

8. Community Projects: 2010-2020

Redhead residents are committed to realising their vision and strengthening their values through the implementation of activities. Listed below are the *Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood* community projects for 2010 to 2020. Each project has a Project Leader and Project Team. To find out more or get involved, please refer to *Contact Us* on page two.

Figure 1

Project 1: Sustainable Living

Project Team: Sustainable Living

Aim: Through local action, initiate, promote and support events, programs, activities and actions that reduce the environmental footprint of Redhead so that we can:

- conserve, protect and improve our natural resources while saving money and reducing waste;
- be responsible global community citizens; and
- build neighbourhood cooperation and trust so that we are better prepared for natural disasters.

Actions		Resources	Outcomes
Water			
1.1	Audit water usage and promote a Community Water Challenge to reduce water consumption	Hunter Water Report; RSN Communications Team; LMCC; Hunter Water	Reduced water consumption; neighbourhood awareness, pride and cohesion
1.2	Create native garden landscapes	RSN Environment Team; LMCC	Reduced water and fuel use
1.3	Facilitate bulk buying opportunities – rainwater tanks, water saving devices	LMCC, Hunter Water	Reduced water use
Energy			
1.4	Audit energy usage and promote a Community Energy Challenge to reduce energy consumption	Reports from energy providers; RSN Communications Team	Reduced energy use; neighbourhood awareness, pride and cohesion
1.5	Audit GreenPower take-up uptake rates and promote GreenPower uptake.	Energy providers	Increased renewable energy use and availability; neighbourhood awareness
1.6	Register as Energymark Convenors: organise Energymark workshops	NSW Office of Environment and Heritage; CSIRO Energymark Program	Reduced energy use; cost savings
1.7	Conduct Earth Hour events	Earth Hour resources	Neighbourhood cohesion
1.8	Evaluate potential for natural gas distribution in Redhead	Reports from energy providers	Increased proportion of natural gas energy use
1.9	Promote Council energy programs	LMCC	Reduced energy use; cost savings
1.10	Connect with a community directly affected by climate change	LMCC; sustainability and other community organisations	Community climate change education and awareness
Waste			
1.11	Audit waste generation and recycling rates and promote a Community Waste Challenge to reduce waste	LMCC Report; RSN Communications Team	Waste reduction; neighbourhood awareness, pride and cohesion
1.12	Waste into Art community sculpture	RSN Placemaking Team	Neighbourhood awareness and cohesion
1.13	Promote waste awareness and reduce, reuse, recycle opportunities for Redhead Industrial Estate	LMCC; NSW Office of Environment and Heritage	Waste reduction; neighbourhood awareness
1.14	Investigate Local Depot for Council Clean up days	RSN Men's Shed and Community Garden Teams; LMCC	Increased recycling and reuse
1.15	Create "How to Recycle" youth project	RSN Youth Engagement Team	Youth engagement and community leadership

Transport			
1.16	Investigate and facilitate a "walking bus" project	Redhead Public School	Reduced energy use; cost savings; neighbourhood awareness and cohesion
1.17	Audit and promote use of Fernleigh Track	LMCC	Reduced energy use; neighbourhood awareness
1.18	Audit and promote public transport use and availability; facilitate appropriate improvements in public transport.	State Transit	Reduced energy use; cost savings; public transport meets community needs; neighbourhood awareness
1.19	Facilitate a car-pooling project	RSN Communications Team; communication tools, e.g. Facebook	Reduced energy use; cost savings; neighbourhood awareness and cohesion
1.20	Initiate companion riders for leisure and commuting activities; promote existing cycling and pedestrian groups.	RSN Communications Team; social media tools, e.g. Facebook	Reduced energy use; energy cost savings; neighbourhood awareness and cohesion
1.21	Facilitate and encourage improved access for people with a disability	LMCC; local business; community organisations	Neighbourhood equity, awareness, pride and cohesion
Consumption			
1.22	Cooperate and collaborate on projects that promote sustainable consumption of resources e.g. local food, community garden, repairs and reuse	RSN Men's Shed and Community Garden Teams	Reduced energy use; energy and food cost savings; neighbourhood awareness and cohesion
Neighbourhood preparedness			
1.23	Review Coastal Hazard Zone Study and partake in the draft Coastal Management Plan consultation process	LMCC; NSW Office of Environment and Heritage	Neighbourhood awareness
1.24	Audit and evaluate Neighbourhood Risk Management Plans for fire, storm and tsunami; initiate neighbourhood preparedness education and awareness meetings	Fire Brigade; LMCC; energy and communication providers	Neighbourhood awareness and cohesion

Project 2: Community Communications and Connections

Project Team: Communications

Aim: To assist Redhead neighbourhood communication and sustain community spirit by:

- setting up a website for the community to enhance communication;
- preparing a newsletter for regular distribution, with contributions welcome from all community groups;
- preparing a directory of local community and business activities for distribution to all Redhead residents;
- creating community noticeboards and publishing a calendar of community activities; and
- establishing a welcoming process for new residents.

Actions		Resources	Outcomes
Communications			
2.1	Develop RSN branding and logo	RSN; LMCC	Branding/logo developed
2.2	Consult with residents to determine most effective communication methods	RSN	Increased understanding of how to get message out
2.3	Record oral histories of long term residents	RSN; LMCC Lake Macquarie History Online	Oral histories recorded
2.4	Promote neighbourhood values, visions assets and needs	RSN; local business; local sustainability & other community organisations; local schools	Increased community connections
2.5	Develop RSN communication resources - website, newsletter, calendar, directory, notice boards and interpretive signs	RSN; local business; local sustainability & other community organisations; local schools; LMCC	Developed and utilised; increased awareness of local assets
2.6	Welcome committee for new residents	RSN; local business; local organisations	New residents welcomed, given relevant information
2.7	Letterbox drop team	Team created by community	Distribution of printed information
Partnerships			
2.8	Develop and implement sponsorship and grants policy and process	LMSNA; LMCC; local business; State & Federal Government	Sponsorship funding to cover normal costs; grants funding for identified needs
2.9	Generate and share messages through existing organisations	RSN; local sustainability & community organisations; local business; local schools	Information disseminated through website, newsletter; calendar etc

Project 3: Protect and Improve Our Natural Environment

Project Team: Environment

Aim: To develop a community ecosystem enhancement plan which enables residents to:

- raise awareness and understanding of the ecological treasures of Redhead, and the threats to the quality and health of local ecosystems; and
- take strategic action to protect and improve the seven ecosystem types contained in the Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood Area.

Actions		Resources	Outcomes
Community environmental audit and communications			
3.1	Engage Council support to create a vegetation plan for Redhead	Landcare; LMCC	Weeding/planting activities produce quality outcomes
3.2	Seek support from Council to complete a natural assets audit for Redhead	Landcare; LMCC	Comprehensive understanding of assets
3.3	Create a communication plan to raise resident awareness of natural assets	RSN Communications Team; Landcare; LMCC	Widespread understanding of Redheads natural assets
Community actions			
3.4	Create and strengthen Landcare groups and action task forces to undertake environmental improvements	RSN Communications Team; Landcare; LMCC	Increased levels of volunteerism in environmental groups
3.5	Reduce stormwater runoff	RSN Sustainable Living Team; LMCC	Stormwater runoff reduced
3.6	Work with providers to run a Certificate II Bush Regeneration for community	RSN Communications Team; Landcare; LMCC	Community awareness and participation in bush regeneration increased
3.7	Introduce WaterWatch program to increase community awareness of waterways management	RSN Communications Team; LMCC	WaterWatch program formalised
3.8	Organise volunteers for Council's Community Ecosystem Monitoring Program	RSN Communications Team; LMCC Community Ecosystem Monitoring Program	Community awareness of ecosystem health management increased

Project 4: Redhead Men's Shed

Project Team: Men's Shed

Aim: To develop, build and operate a well equipped Redhead Men's Shed based on the time-tested model of the Australian Men's Shed Association (AMSA) and as part of the Hunter Valley Shed Cluster Group. Through this, residents of all ages will be able to:

- come together to build, fix, and restore items for themselves and their community;
- work, share, teach, and learn together;
- find a new sense of themselves and others;
- address men's health issues and mentor youth;
- generate products to sustain the Redhead Men's Shed community; and
- swap yarns over a cup of coffee.

Actions		Resources	Outcomes
4.1	Meet regularly	RSN Communications Team; contact list	Transparency of actions and project sustainability
4.2	Search out a suitable site - discussion with Redhead Gardens Masonic Village	RSN; LMCC; Redhead community	Redhead has a Men's Shed location
4.3	Visit and network with other Men's Sheds	RSN; AMSA; Hunter Valley Shed Cluster Group	Linked into national Men's Shed and Hunter networks
4.4	Register Redhead Men's Shed and organise an ABN	RSN; AMSA; Hunter Valley Shed Cluster Group	Men's Shed set up as a viable business

Project 5: Friends of Lambton Colliery

Project Team: Friends of Lambton Colliery

Aim: To protect, conserve, renew and reuse the Lambton Colliery Buildings so that:

- the 19th century heritage status, architectural and historical qualities are preserved and promoted;
- residents and visitors can access the space and gain a greater understanding of Redhead's history; and
- restoration work is sustained through the Conservation Management Plan.

Actions		Resources	Outcomes
5.1	Create a Lambton Colliery working group	LMCC Heritage Officer	Proactive planning and management
5.2	Complete and support an application to have the building listed on the NSW State Heritage Register	LMCC Heritage Officer; Heritage Branch, NSW Department of Planning	Comprehensive documentation of Heritage Values; conservation Management Plan
5.3	Celebrate State Heritage Register listing	RSN Events Team; LMCC Heritage Officer; Heritage Branch, NSW Department of Planning	Community awareness and cohesion
5.4	Initiate and support LMCC to investigate and identify adaptable reuse of the heritage buildings	LMCC Heritage Officer	Viable reuse of the heritage buildings
5.5	Initiate and support LMCC to facilitate the adaptable reuse of the heritage buildings.	LMCC Heritage Officer	Viable reuse of the heritage buildings
5.6	Support and facilitate a celebration marking the opening of the restored buildings for adaptable reuse	LMCC; RSN Events Team; RSN Communications Team	Community awareness and cohesion
5.7	Assist in ensuring that the Colliery Buildings become a historical, contemporary and dynamic neighbourhood cultural treasure	LMCC; RSN Communications Team	Viable reuse of the heritage buildings; ongoing community education and cohesion

Project 6: Redhead Community Garden

Project Team: Community Garden

Aim To develop and sustain the Redhead Community Garden so that we can:

- reduce food miles;
- eat fresh, organic, non genetically modified healthy foods;
- learn how to grow, maintain and prepare food according to seasons and growing conditions;
- create a local neighbourhood green waste compost system;
- run education workshops;
- create a space for positive community activity and projects for all residents, and
- link with the greater global community garden movement.

Actions		Resources	Outcomes
6.1	Regular planning meetings	RSN Communications Team; venue; contact list	Transparency of actions and project sustainability
6.2	Search out a suitable site	RSN; LMCC	Secured Redhead Community Garden site
6.3	Promote and gain community support	RSN Communications Team	Community demand for community garden
6.4	Visit and network with other Community Gardens	RSN; LMCC; Community Gardens Network	Linked into Community Gardens Network
6.5	Establish a Redhead Community Garden	RSN; LMCC; local business; local sustainability and other community groups; local schools	Ongoing production and viability

Project 7: Adopt Webb Park

Project Team: Adopt Webb Park

Aim To adopt, improve and develop Webb Park so that it becomes an iconic community asset where:

- residents can learn new skills;
- people can improve neighbourly connectedness;
- neighbours can gain a strong sense of ownership and responsibility of Webb Park;
- community spirit and pride shines through the renewal process;
- residents, visitors, and groups have a special neighbourhood space to spend time relaxing, reflecting and celebrating together;
- amenity and functionality of Webb Park is enhanced and sustained; and
- children have a fantastic space to play.

Actions		Resources	Outcomes
7.1	Regular planning meetings	RSN Communications Team; venue; contact list	Transparency of actions and project sustainability
7.2	Research community and visitor needs	RSN; LMCC; Redhead community	Needs identified
7.3	Work with Council to review the Webb Park component of the existing Redhead Beach Master Plan 2002	RSN; LMCC	Needs incorporated into Plan
7.4	Implementation of revised Plan	RSN; LMCC	All age groups enjoying the outdoor facility

Project 8: Redhead Community Events

Project Team: Events

Aim: To develop a Community Events Calendar which:

- promotes and supports existing community events and Sustainable Neighbourhood projects;
- encourages neighbourhood participation and interaction; and
- responds to neighbourhood needs.

Actions		Resources	Outcomes
8.1	Create an Events Calendar working group	RSN	Established Nov 2010; review Nov 2011
8.2	Search out, support and promote existing neighbourhood events	RSN; local sustainability & other community groups; local business; local schools; LMCC	Redhead events have strong community support
8.3	Generate neighbourhood Events Calendar to be promoted through a variety mechanisms	RSN Communications Team; local sustainability & other community groups; local business; local schools; LMCC	Easy access for Redhead community members to Events Calendar
8.4	Establish *Redhead Meet & Greet* events to attract residents and support the village community	RSN Communications Team; local sustainability & other community groups; local business	Annual calendar established within three years; Increased community participation & interaction
8.5	Establish *Visit Redhead* events to attract visitors e.g. Historical tours, BYO Pets, movies on the beach, fun run, culture by the sea	RSN; LMCC; local business; local sustainability & other community groups	Annual calendar by 2020; Increased support for local businesses and facilities
8.6	Establish *Redhead Mini-meets to* promote and support local small group meetings, e.g. Bridge club, book club	RSN; local community groups; local business; local facilities e.g. Redhead Community Library	Increased time spent together as Redhead community members
8.7	Support sustainable neighbourhood projects and events, e.g. Harmony Day, Clean Up Australia Day, Earth Hour	RSN; LMCC; local sustainability & other community groups; local business; local schools	National & international participation
8.8	Annual review of the previous year's events calendar	RSN; Redhead community	Actions changed in response to outcomes

Future Projects

The following projects are currently without Project Leaders and Project Teams however have been identified by the residents of Redhead as important priorities for Redhead's sustainable future. To find out more or get involved, please refer to *Contact Us* on page two.

Youth Engagement

Aim: To create opportunities to engage and capture the interests, energy, creativity, and insights of Redhead Youth (young people aged 12-25 years) so that young people:

- have the opportunity to develop and invest their skills and talents into their neighbourhood; and
- can lead the community in citizenship and community life projects.

Placemaking

Aim: To create interesting, beautiful and functional community art installations to brighten, enliven and enhance our coastal village so that:

- people enjoy being part of the community space in Redhead;
- the Redhead character is celebrated; and
- beauty and creativity has an outlet.

Acknowledgement

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