

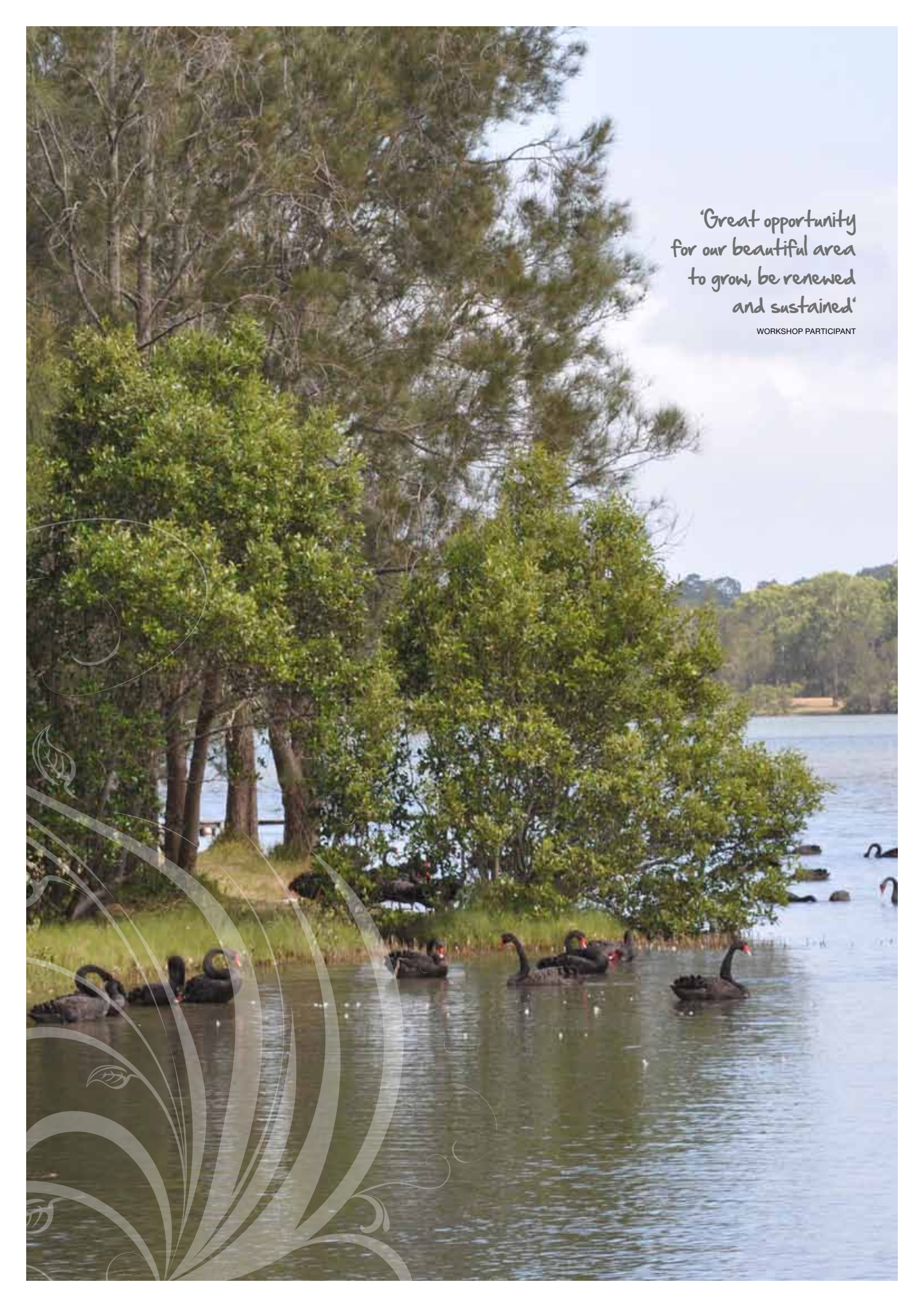


# LT Creek Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan 2011-2020

*"...this will go a long way if we walk hand  
in hand down this pathway."*

LOCAL RESIDENT





*'Great opportunity  
for our beautiful area  
to grow, be renewed  
and sustained'*

WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT



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## Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the Awabakal people, the traditional custodians of our neighbourhood. We pay our respects to elders past, and present. As we come together as a community, to plan for the future and wellbeing of our neighbourhood, we remember that under our roads, homes, sports grounds, and shops, is, was, and always will be, Aboriginal Land.

# Background

## The Sustainable Neighbourhood Program

*- reducing our ecological footprint neighbourhood by neighbourhood*

Lake Macquarie City Council is committed to caring for the local environment and making a fair contribution to a happy sustainable planet. The Sustainable Neighbourhood Program is a bottom up approach which enables communities to develop their own neighbourhood sustainability action plan, implement actions that reduce their neighbourhood footprint, and increase their neighbourhood wellbeing.

## A Sustainable Neighbourhood for LT Creek

In April 2010 Council first met with a group of residents from the LT Creek area, who were interested in sustainability matters, to discuss the feasibility of developing a Sustainable Neighbourhood Group in Blackalls Park, Fennell Bay and Fassifern. The LT Creek Landcare Group became involved as a 'host' group, and together we began to create the LT Creek Sustainable Neighbourhood Group and develop a Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP) for LT Creek (Blackalls Park, Fennell Bay and Fassifern).

The contents of the SNAP have been developed through a series of community engagement activities designed to ensure broad participation. This Plan aims to represent an accurate and authentic picture of the values, attitudes, and concerns of the LT Creek neighbourhood residents.

## The LT Creek Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan : Methodology

Over a period of 12 months, the LT Creek Sustainable Neighbourhood Group worked with neighbours and Council through a variety of engagement activities to collect information on what is important to the residents of Blackalls Park, Fennell Bay and Fassifern. These engagements included:

- Schools Sustainable Neighbourhoods Forum – Charlton Christian College, St Pauls High School and Lake Macquarie High School (June 2010);
- LT Creek Sustainable Neighbourhood Introductory Community Workshop (July 2010);
- Monthly LT Creek Sustainable Neighbourhood meetings (from July 2010);
- LT Creek Sustainable Neighbourhood Survey (August 2010);
- LT Creek Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Planning Workshop (November 2010);
- Draft LT Creek Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan open for community consultation and input (March 2011).

The information collected through these engagements has formed the basis of the LT Creek Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan.



# The LT Creek Neighbourhood

What we have – what we love...



- 1 Charlton Christian College
- 2 Blackalls Park Public School
- 3 Fennell Bay Public School
- 4 Fassifern Public School
- 5 Blackalls Park shops
- 6 Kurran-kurran – Awabakal cultural site
- 7 Lake St Landcare site
- 8 Lt Creek Landcare site
- 9 Seagrass beds
- 10 Fennell Bay Community Hall
- The Greenway



# Our Vision

*'To restore and protect our waterways and bushland, to strengthen and educate our community and build links between neighbours, to reduce our neighbourhood ecological footprint and maintain our peaceful environment.'*

## What we love about our neighbourhood

- Our balance of natural environment and city facilities.
- The natural beauty of our creeks, lake, bushland and wildlife.
- Our local services and facilities – Blackalls Park shops and public transport.
- The Toronto / Fassifern Cycleway (The Greenway).
- Our friendly community.

## Challenges facing our neighbourhood

- The health of our creeks and lake (siltation and urban run off).
- Mining expansion and related health effects (air quality).
- Infrastructure for drainage and stormwater.
- Waste and litter.
- Energy consumption.

*'To make a community we need to work together, like when a mixing spoon gathers the ingredients to make a cake. The cake represents our community and the spoon represents people working together'*

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT



# LT Creek Sustainable Neighbourhood Group Planning Themes 2011-2020

## Strengthening community

**Our aim:** To build community spirit, encourage active citizenship, and educate our community about environmental and sustainability issues.

**Outcome:** We are connected, engaged, and empowered to work together to improve our community and wellbeing.



## Living sustainably

**Our aim:** To encourage and enable residents and businesses to reduce their ecological footprint.

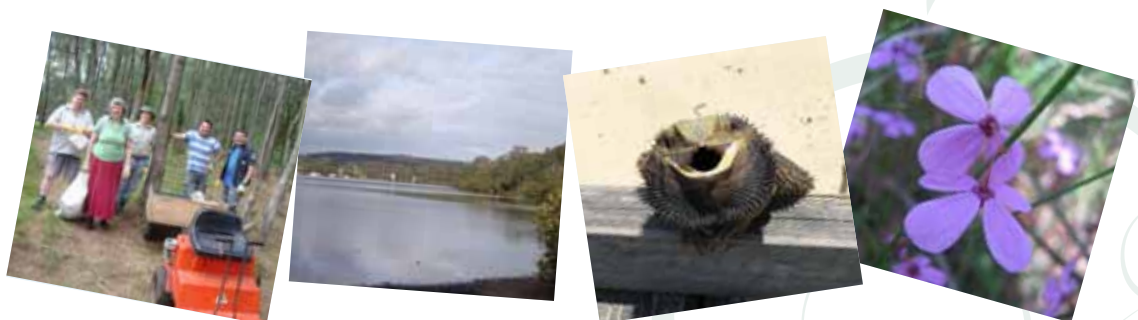
**Outcome:** We take personal action to make our households and businesses more sustainable; to reduce energy, water, waste and consumption. We repair, share, and reuse goods, skills, and resources.



## Protecting the natural environment

**Our aim:** To restore and protect our waterways and bushland.

**Outcome:** We care about the natural and cultural values of our neighbourhood. We understand the threats and risks affecting the health of our environment. We take action to protect, repair, and maintain the health of our lake, creeks and bushland.



# Strengthening community

Actions		Resources	Outcomes
1.1	<b>Conduct regular Sustainable Neighbourhood group meetings</b>	LT Creek SNG Coordinators and project leaders Guest speakers	Residents develop a strong, representative, respected neighbourhood voice. Local neighbourhood projects are supported. The community is empowered to express their views and participate in planning and decision-making.
1.2	<b>Communications</b> 1. LT Creek SNG website 2. Community noticeboard	LT Creek SNG Coordinators and project leaders LMCC Grants Local contributors	Reliable and current sources of locally relevant information on environmental and sustainable living activities and issues are available to the community. There are avenues for local community to stay in touch, informed and meet people with similar interests and ideas. People are encouraged to participate in local activities and make changes to reduce their ecological footprint. People care about the natural, social, and cultural values of their neighbourhood and understand the threats to these values.
1.3	<b>Community events</b> Eg: Community BBQs, street parties, Clean Up Australia Day.	LT Creek SNG Coordinators and project leaders Clean Up Australia	There are strong social links between residents, people know their neighbours and can rely on them for friendship and support.
1.4	<b>Art competition/exhibition</b> Run an art competition for local artists and schools, exhibit entries at Blackalls Park shops (using empty shop fronts). Eg: "Create an LT Creek SNG logo". "What we love about our neighbourhood"	LT Creek SNG project leader Blackalls Park shops Local schools	Empty shopfronts at Blackalls Park shopping centre are utilised, creating visual interest and reasons for residents to visit shops. Logo created for LTCSNG Community involved in creative celebration of neighbourhood.
1.5	<b>Build relationships with the local indigenous community</b>	LT Creek SNG LALCs Local Aboriginal Land Councils	There is increased understanding and appreciation of indigenous culture and social history. There are improved relationships with the indigenous community and increased indigenous involvement in LT Creek SNG activities.
1.6	<b>Support/utilise our local shops and business.</b>	LT Creek SNG project leader	Blackalls Park shops are a thriving business centre.
1.7	<b>Involve our youth</b> Support young people to have a voice in their neighbourhood. Support young people to develop their own ideas and projects around making LT Creek sustainable. Involve young people in the LT Creek SNG and its projects.	LT Creek SNG Coordinators and project leaders Local schools	Young people are involved and engaged in their community. Young people have a voice in their community. There is respect and understanding between generations in the community.
1.8	<b>Help the elderly</b> Find ways to support the elderly in the community.	LT Creek SNG Coordinators and project leaders	There are strengthened connections between generations within the community, older people feel less vulnerable and isolated.
1.9	<b>Men's Shed / Women's Craft Group</b> Investigate the potential of establishing a Men's Shed and/or a Women's Craft Group in the neighbourhood.	LT Creek SNG Coordinators and project leaders	There is a centre for people to meet, develop and construct projects.





# Living sustainably

Actions		Resources	Outcomes
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Trades and Business Directory</b> Develop a Neighbourhood Directory to promote local business and trades people.	LT Creek SNG project leader Local business and trades people	Local business and trades people are supported by their own community. Residents travel less to shop and source goods and services. Community connections are strengthened.
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Education</b> Provide information and 'tips' to the community through the website and noticeboard. Arrange guest speakers to address residents on environmental and sustainability subjects. Create sustainability and environmental display at Blackalls Park shops.	LT Creek SNG Coordinators and project leaders Grants Blackalls Park shops	Residents are well informed on aspects of sustainable living, including; renewable energy, water and waste management, eco-friendly gardening principles.
<b>2.3</b>	<b>Edible Gardening Group (EGGS)</b> Establish an informal group of residents who meet to share their passion for edible gardening. The group meets to share ideas, inspiration, and produce.	LT Creek SNG project leader Residents	More residents grow and share their own food. There is increased connection between people in the neighbourhood.
<b>2.4</b>	<b>Solar power / solar hot water / water tank bulk buying group</b> Explore opportunities for residents to buy in bulk and save money, time, and resources.	LT Creek SNG project leader Residents LMCC Grants	There are increased numbers of households with energy and water saving devices. The footprint of the neighbourhood is reduced.
<b>2.5</b>	<b>Community swap meet</b> Hold events for residents to donate unwanted, good quality items to swap with other items. Eg: clothes, toys, household items, games, books.	LT Creek SNG project leader Blackalls Park shops (carpark) Planet Ark Big Aussie Swap National Recycling Week: 8-14 November	Unwanted household items are reused rather than thrown away.
<b>2.6</b>	<b>Community Centre</b> Explore possibilities for establishing a community centre in the neighbourhood.	LT Creek SNG Coordinators and project leaders LMCC Grants / sponsorship	There is a focal point for the community to hold meetings, events, and community activities.
<b>2.7</b>	<b>Community Garden</b> Create a shared community space for growing and learning about edible gardening.	LT Creek SNG project leader Grants LMCC	There is a vibrant, productive community run garden, where people interested in edible food, community and gardening can meet, eat, grow, and share healthy fresh food.
<b>2.8</b>	<b>Skills trading</b> Develop a local skills trading project where members exchange goods and services with minimal use of money.	LT Creek SNG Coordinators and project leaders	Local people are able to use their skills and resources to create their own local economy with less reliance on money and external providers.
<b>2.9</b>	<b>Plastic bag free shopping</b> Encourage residents and business to reduce or eliminate plastic bags when shopping.	LT Creek SNG Coordinators and project leaders	Residents use their own bags when shopping, there is less rubbish and wastage of resources.

"It's good that our thoughts and ideas will go to the community meeting so they can hear what we have to say. Great to have a voice and be heard"

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT



# Protecting the natural environment

Actions		Resources	Outcomes
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Lake Street Landcare (Fassifern)</b> Establish a group to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the short cut to 'The Greenway'</li> <li>• Repair and protect the Saltmarsh and Swamp oak forest</li> </ul>	LT Creek SNG project leader LT Creek Landcare Group Grants / sponsorship LM Landcare LMCC	An active Landcare group. The natural values of two Endangered Ecological Communities (EEC) are protected and maintained (saltmarsh, swamp oak forest) There is a strengthened sense of pride and connection to the lake, its fringing bushland, and The Greenway.
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Croft Oval / old LRO site</b> Revitalise LT Creek Landcare work along LT Creek and around oval through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replanting and weed control</li> <li>• Illegal dumping eradicated</li> <li>• Reducing siltation in drain</li> </ul>	LT Creek SNG project leader LM Landcare LT Creek Landcare Group LMCC Grants / sponsorship	The LT Creek Landcare group is active and revitalised. The health of LT Creek is improved through maintaining a healthy riparian zone along its banks.
<b>3.3</b>	<b>The Greenway</b> Support a range of activities along 'The Greenway', including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weed control and replanting with natives,</li> <li>• Litter clean up</li> <li>• Placement of interpretive signage</li> <li>• Local residents 'Adopt a section' close to where they live.</li> </ul>	LT Creek SNG project leader LT Creek Landcare Group Grants / sponsorship LM Landcare LMCC	The Greenway is clean and free of litter. The bushland along 'The Greenway' is regenerated. There is increased use of 'The Greenway' and pride in the local area.
<b>3.4</b>	<b>Clean up LT Creek – Stop illegal dumping</b> Work with Council and other groups to reduce and eradicate illegal dumping. Target areas include 'The Greenway' and Croft Oval.	LT Creek SNG project leader LM Landcare LT Creek Landcare Group LMCC Clean Up Australia	The neighbourhood is clean and free of litter and there are annual clean ups. There is no illegal dumping. There is increased use of, and pride in, the local area.
<b>3.5</b>	<b>Education</b> Provide information and 'tips' to the community through the website and noticeboard. Eg. Weed identification, local wildlife, ways to reduce runoff. Increase the community understanding of local environmental values and threats by hosting neighbourhood education activities. Create environmental display at Blackalls Park shops. Eg: Local bird photos.	LT Creek SNG Coordinators and project leaders Guest speakers LM Landcare Grants Blackalls Park shops LMCC	Residents appreciate and care about their natural and cultural environment. Residents understand the threats to the environment and take steps to protect, and care for, their local environment.
<b>3.6</b>	<b>Signage to promote local environmental features</b> Explore possibilities to create interpretive signage for significant areas in the neighbourhood. Eg. Lake St saltmarsh, The Greenway.	LT Creek SNG Coordinators and project leaders LM Landcare Grants LMCC	There is informative, educational signage in significant areas in the neighbourhood, increasing awareness of local values and generating a sense of local pride.





# LT Creek Sustainable Neighbourhood Group Contacts

The LT Creek SNG meets once a month. If you want to get involved or have new ideas on how to improve our neighbourhood, reduce our ecological footprint and increase community spirit, we would love you to join us!

Contact Robyn Charlton: westlakewrens@gmail.com

**[www.ltcreek.wordpress.com](http://www.ltcreek.wordpress.com)**

## Acknowledgements and thanks to:

Landcare Resource Office  
Koorana Aboriginal Landcare  
Charlton Christian College  
Fennell Bay Public School  
Hair Creations

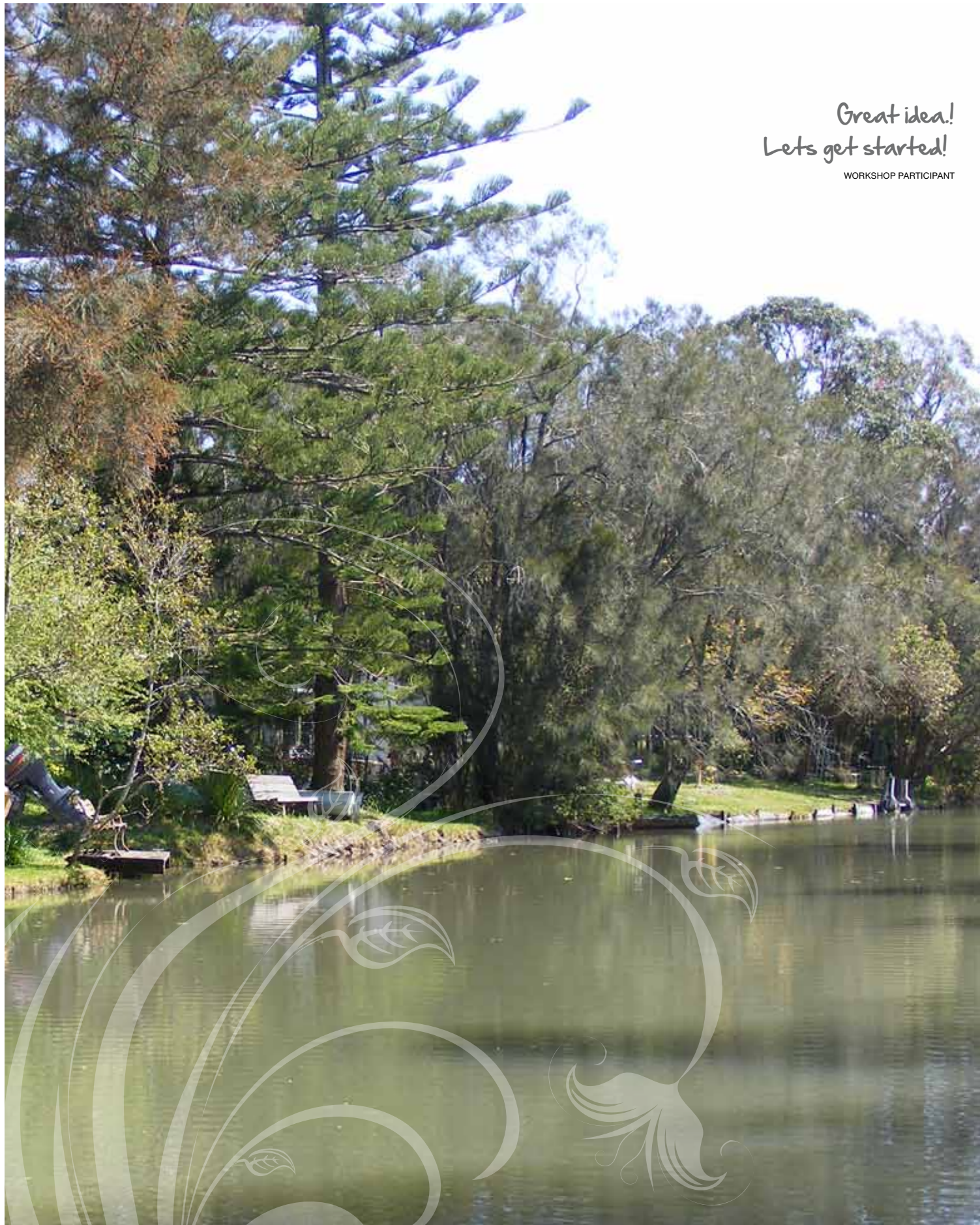
Peter James Quality Meats  
The Gothic House of Pizza  
Blackalls Park Pie and Cake Shop  
Metro Fuel Fennell Bay  
Cellarbrations Blackalls Park





Great idea!  
Let's get started!

WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT



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is supported by Lake Macquarie City Council

