

Rathmines Area

Sustainable Neighbourhood

Action Plan

Developed by residents of Balmoral,
Fishing Point and Rathmines

Supported by Lake Macquarie City Council



Actions towards a Sustainable Rathmines Area 2015-2025

Sustainable transport

Actively encourage use of footpaths and shared pathways to improve connectivity in, and around, the Rathmines Area.

Objective 1: Encourage a pedestrian and cycle-friendly neighbourhood, and improve shared pathways

Objective 2: Advocate to improve traffic management

Objective 3: Investigate and advocate for electric car charge points

Community values and unique village amenity

We value and appreciate our neighbourhood including the place and all of the people in it.

Objective 4 : Develop and encourage community activities for all ages

Objective 5: Provide opportunities for people to connect and contribute to the neighbourhood, and create a sense of belonging and pride

Objective 6: Investigate and develop support mechanisms for elderly or vulnerable people/neighbours

Objective 7: Encourage and support community through food gardens

Objective 8: Improve public areas for children to play safely

Objective 9: Encourage recognition and celebration of the historical value of Rathmines

Protecting our natural environment

We actively care for and enjoy our bushland that supports native wildlife.

Objective 10: Maintain and enhance our bushland environment through education and encouragement of bushwalks

Objective 11: Encourage participation in Landcare, bush regeneration, weed management and catchment management activities

Objective 12: Manage pest animals

Objective 13: Focus on waste management including waste education

Objective 14: Inform and encourage residents to follow responsible pet care principles and advocate for improved off-leash areas

Objective 15: Maintain the amenity and value of the Lake by reducing litter and organising clean-up days

Get involved

Be a part of something positive.

Find out about our current projects
and activities, and how you can be
a part of this fantastic initiative.

Rathmines Area Sustainable Neighbourhood Group

rathminesng@gmail.com
sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/rathmines-area

Sustainable Neighbourhoods Lake Macquarie

(02) 4921 0117

sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au
admin@sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au

Lake Macquarie City Council

(02) 4921 0333
council@lakemac.nsw.gov.au



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Sustainable Neighbourhoods is an initiative of
Lake Macquarie City Council





Rathmines Area Sustainable Neighbourhood Group Action Plan for residents and friends of Balmoral, Fishing Point and Rathmines

Lake Macquarie City residents have a strong commitment to their environment and community. In response, Lake Macquarie City Council has established the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program. The program encourages active citizenship by enabling residents to:

- protect and care for their environment and place;
- reduce resource consumption;
- respond effectively to environmental threats; and
- participate in public life and decision-making.

The Rathmines Sustainable Neighbourhood Workshop, held on 5 April 2016, had a very good attendance with 31 enthusiastic participants. The results of the workshop highlighted what the residents and friends of the Rathmines Area love and value about their community; and what they would like to protect and enhance. Workshop participants also came up with some ideas on practical projects to maintain and enhance what they love and value about the Rathmines Area.

In addition to the workshop, more than 150 local residents responded to the Rathmines Area Sustainable Neighbourhood Community Attitudes Survey in October 2105.

Did you know?

- The Hely Family were the recipients of an early land grant and named their farm 'Rathmines' after the family's hometown near Dublin, Ireland.
- There was an Aboriginal campsite near Styles Point.
- Henry F Halloran designed and named the estates of Balmoral and Fishing Point in 1920. He was influenced by the English 'Garden City' movement.
- The name Balmoral comes from a castle in Scotland and early maps show Balmoral called Secret Bay.
- Fishing Point is a descriptive name for a point with one of the best views of Lake Macquarie.
- An RAAF station was built in Rathmines in 1939. The Catalinas were moored in the Bay at Rathmines. Rathmines was the largest wartime flying boat base in Australia. The unit was disbanded in December 1952. The artist William Dobell was responsible for the camouflage of the base.
- Important habitat for the City's threatened species including Powerful Owl and Squirrel Glider is found in the Rathmines area.

What we value about the Rathmines Area

the Lake
and its
accessibility

our village
atmosphere
and sense of
community

the peace
and quiet

Our vision for a sustainable Rathmines Area in 2025

A strong, connected and resilient neighbourhood where we care for our natural, historic and cultural assets and enjoy a safe, active and friendly lifestyle.

We want the Rathmines Area to be a place where:

- footpaths and shared pathways provide connectivity around our neighbourhood, and around the Lake;
- we enjoy a strong sense of community and we are connected, caring and neighbourly;
- our bushland thrives, and we understand our local ecology and resource use; and
- the former RAAF based is valued as a link to our past and an asset to our community.

