



Charlestown East

Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP)

Developed by residents of Charlestown East through the
Charlestown East Sustainable Neighbourhood Group



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Charlestown East at a Glance

Population	Charlestown East	Lake Macquarie	Population Growth	Charlestown East	Lake Macquarie
	2,906 persons	183,139 persons	2001-2006	2.3%	3.1%
	47% male	49% male			
	53% female	51% female			
Ancestry	Charlestown East	Lake Macquarie	Age Distribution	Charlestown East	Lake Macquarie
Indigenous	1.5%	2.3%	0-24 years	27%	32%
Australian born	81%	85%	25-44 years	25%	24%
Speaks English only	88%	93%	45-64 years	21%	27%
			65 years plus	28%	17%
			15 years plus	84%	80%
Selected Medians	Charlestown East	Lake Macquarie	Households Persons	Charlestown East	Lake Macquarie
Age	42 years	40 years	No of households	1,181	67,442
Weekly household income	\$737	\$922	One person household	31%	23%
Monthly mortgage	\$1309	\$1,300	Two person household	41%	36%
Monthly rent	\$887	\$832.50	Fully owned	45%	40%
Household Size	2.2	2.6	Being purchased	25%	34%
Unemployment	7.4%	6.7%	Renting	28%	22%
Street address 1 year ago	80%	88%	Family households	65%	75%
Street address 5 years ago	61%	65%	Other household type	35%	25%
Education	Charlestown East	Lake Macquarie	Couple family with child	35%	44%
Years 11/12	36%	36%	Couple family no child	46%	38%
Employment	Charlestown East	Lake Macquarie	One parent household	18%	17%
% pop aged 15 years plus in workforce	49%	56%	Full time employed	61%	60%
Main Fields of Study	Charlestown East	Lake Macquarie	Volunteers	Charlestown East	Lake Macquarie
Engineering and related	22%	22%		14%	17%
Management and commerce	16%	15%	Need Assistance with Self Care	Charlestown East	Lake Macquarie
Main Fields of Study	Charlestown East	Lake Macquarie		7%	5.4%
Clerical and administrative	18%	15%			
Technicians and trades	18%	17%			
Professionals	19%	18%			

Charlestown East Residents Currently Value

- ✓ Living close to all amenities/facilities, e.g. shops, medical, pool, schools, library;
- ✓ Friendly community/neighbourhood where people are inclined to help each other;
- ✓ Peace and quiet with open space, bushland, walking tracks and the Fernleigh Track;
- ✓ Beaches and Bushland.

Vision for a Sustainable Charlestown East

A Charlestown East Neighbourhood that:

- ✓ Is a united community working together;
- ✓ Has green leafy spaces with substantial bushland areas and thriving wildlife;
- ✓ Has a community garden where residents can take compostable waste and share and grow food;
- ✓ Has walking paths and bike tracks that encourage people to leave their cars at home and access goods and services locally;
- ✓ Has public transport services that are reliable and accessible for all people in the neighbourhood; and
- ✓ Has happy healthy families using the parks and public facilities to socialise and celebrate.

Achieving the Vision

Charlestown East has a range of resources, assets, services, and individuals that enable residents to achieve their vision. Charlestown is developing as a major regional centre and as such offers Charlestown East residents greater access to goods and services than many other residents in Lake Macquarie City.





Walking, riding or catching a bus are great ways to get round Charlestown East

Together we will...

- ✓ Work to improve pedestrian access on footpaths, road crossings and through bushland. We will make walking in the neighbourhood fun and safe for all residents of all ages and abilities.
- ✓ Identify the ideal public transport services for the neighbourhood including the right balance of bus stops and services and work to inform the service providers about our needs.
- ✓ Ensure that road network providers are well aware of the issues that affect the residents of Charlestown East and advise these providers of the changes that will protect commuters, pedestrians and cyclists.
- ✓ Engage with Council in the process of improving pedestrian and cycleway facilities.

Charlestown East has extensive green spaces that are worth protecting

Together we will...

- ✓ Work to keep and maintain open space and bushland areas.
- ✓ Increase native habitat.
- ✓ Develop food growing spaces such as community gardens.
- ✓ Reduce pollution.
- ✓ Work to keep the neighbourhood clean and free of litter.

Charlestown East is a strong community

Together we will...

- ✓ Create a sense of belonging to the community through local events and activities.
- ✓ Provide intergenerational connections so that young and old value the neighbourhood.
- ✓ Formalise community art.
- ✓ Support families with higher needs or that are exposed to greater risks.
- ✓ Create events and activities where residents can share skills and knowledge.
- ✓ Help develop a skate park.

Climate change is a cause that will unite our community

Together we will...

- ✓ Become informed about the causes and effects of climate change.
- ✓ Help spread awareness of the causes and effects of climate change.
- ✓ Implement actions that will reduce the energy used by Charlestown East residents.

Waste is a resource that residents can use or direct for reuse and recycling

Together we will...

- ✓ Promote reuse and recycling opportunities to residents.
- ✓ Create opportunities for residents to reuse their waste closer to home.

Water is a precious resource and Charlestown East residents will ensure we get the most from it

Together we will...

- ✓ Reduce water usage.
- ✓ Retain and capture rain for reuse.
- ✓ Explore options for water sensitive urban design and other innovations to protect our water resources.



Action Plan

Neighbourhood Actions		Resources	Outcomes
Objective 1 – Increasing pedestrian activity			
1A	Improve walkways and make walking a pleasurable experience: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant the right trees on footpaths that will increase shade and improve amenity without impeding pedestrian traffic or creating trip hazards, Request that Council supply trees, Letter box the area to generate interest, Run a test/ demo street, and Organise a pick up point at the Swim Centre with information on what trees to plant and how to improve the soil. 	Council services and advice, Local Landcare Groups, Charlestown Swim Centre, and Local Expertise.	Quieter, cleaner streets busy with pedestrians that are enjoying the streetscape.
1B	Increase walking to shops (reduce dependence on car): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote local goods and services to residents, and Have retailers, provide incentives for residents to walk. 	Chamber of Commerce and GPT.	Local enterprise with valued and familiar local customers.
1C	Increase kids walking to schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise a walking bus. 	Local public schools.	Active, healthy and safe local kids.
1D	Improve safety: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Council to fix lighting and fix footpaths. 	Council Assets and Infrastructure Planning services and advice, Chamber of Commerce, and GPT.	Increased pedestrian activity.
1E	Increase awareness of walkways.	Chamber of Commerce and Local Business.	Increased pedestrian activity.
Objective 2 – Increasing cycling activity			
2A	Improve and link cycling tracks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobby Council to link Fernleigh track to highway. 	Fernleigh Track, Kenibea Bushland Reserve (landcare Group), GPT, and Chamber of Commerce.	Increased cycling and pedestrian traffic visiting Charlestown Square.
2B	Improve safety for cyclists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Council to create wide cement paths for shared pedestrian and cycleway surfaces. 	Council's Infrastructure Planning services	Increased cycling activity.
2C	Promote health benefits of cycling.	Fernleigh Track	Increased cycling activity.



Neighbourhood Actions		Resources	Outcomes
Objective 3 – Increase the use of public transport			
3A	Promote and increase awareness of bus services.	Local businesses, Chamber of Commerce, Swim Centre and Library.	Increased use of local buses.
3B	Lobby Council and request more bus stop shelters	Schools - petition in office and Swim Centre.	Improved bus stops.
3C	Lobby for free bus services for school students – petition.	Schools - petition in office.	Increased use of buses by students – less vehicle traffic at schools.
3D	Lobby to make public transport more attractive and enticing.	Council Assets and Infrastructure Planning services and advice, Chamber of Commerce, and GPT.	Increased use of local buses.
Objective 4 – Preserve bushland areas			
4A	<p>Improve natural features of the neighbourhood:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in the planning process in order to maintain view corridors, • Work with Council to ensure preservation of existing trees, • Seek input into Council decisions around removal of street trees, alternative actions and replacement of trees, • Increase native street planting, and • Lobby Council for green (foliage covered) buildings. 	Local Landcare Groups, Council Planning Guidelines, Area Plan, Streetscape Master Plan and subsequent consultation processes.	A community actively involved in determining the streetscape aesthetic.
4B	<p>Organise and participate in a clean up of bushland areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase participation in Landcare Groups - Kenibea, Lee St, Flaggy Creek, • Gain sponsorship from business - outside groups (eg. GPT), • Talk to school groups - encourage participation, • Register local bush regeneration activities with employment providers, • Education of general public - waste dumping and littering, • Remove weeds, • Produce and distribute dumping of grass clippings educational brochure, • Strengthen ties between the Landcare Groups – seek support from Council. 	Local Landcare Groups, Cleanup Australia Day promotional resources, Council promotional resources, Schools, local media and Council/ Landcare Educational resources.	Increased participation in community cleanups of bushland.
4C	<p>Plant native gardens on footpaths and residential properties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage nature strip planting, • Write to Council and RTA to gain understanding of planting restrictions, • Lobby Council to increase maintenance of street trees, • Investigate streetscape plans regarding restriction on exotic plants etc., • Work to preserve existing street trees, • Encourage residents to look after their footpath, • Organise a community collection of plants - Council tree giveaway, • Seek guidance from Council on appropriate species, and • Investigate guideline for negotiating permission for planting. 	Council/ Landcare for plants and advice.	Increased planting on footpaths.
4D	Salvage and transplant plants from sites under development eg. TAFE site etc.	Developers, Landcare groups	Trees salvaged from development sites and reused.

Action Plan

Neighbourhood Actions		Resources	Outcomes
Objective 5 – Awareness of sustainable practices and increased Intergenerational Activity			
5A	<p>Work with schools in the community to produce food and conserve the environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish dialogue with school, Help Whitebridge High School to obtain grant funds and rebates e.g. Rain water tanks, Contact school principals and involve school tuckshops, Help schools look into Stephanie Alexander program, and Link schools with local community gardens. 	Charlestown Youth Centre, Lake Macquarie Youth Advisory Committee, and local schools.	An engaged and active youth in sustainability issues.
5B	<p>Increase awareness of sustainable living through workshops and educational resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each person engaged through the process invites other people to meetings and activities via word-of-mouth, Participate in Council's Sustainable Living Workshops, Attend various forums in Newcastle and Lake Macquarie LGAs with key note speakers etc, Host speakers and events at local forums, and Promote existing workshops, speakers, local events and forums throughout the community via existing networks. 	Council's Sustainable Living Workshops, Local Experts and Small Environment Grants.	Regular sustainable living and skill development workshops.
5C	<p>Generate or highlight visible examples of sustainability in the neighbourhood.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilise library events coordinator and Swim Centre Notice Board 	Swim Centre, Charlestown Library, GPT, and Streetscape Master Plan.	Local case studies on display.
5D	Enable energy, water and waste audits of households.	Home audit services	Increased local awareness of sustainable living practices.
Objective 6 – Minimising Climate change			
6A	Increase installation of solar hot water systems and solar PV systems	Rebates and Council bulk purchasing deals.	Increased uptake of solar hot water systems.
6B	<p>Reduced energy consumption by households:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify locally trained assessors, and Secure/ investigate sources of funding to assist in audits/ improvements for low income workers. 	Home audit services.	Lower energy bills.
6C	<p>Encourage residents to take up green power:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gather information from state government on current service provision options, Continue to encourage uptake of initiatives such as smart meters in the home, and Encourage uptake of utilities offering the option to buy renewable energy. 	Council, NSW Government Grants/ rebates, and Energy providers (Energy Australia, AGL etc).	Increased uptake of green power services.



Neighbourhood Actions		Resources	Outcomes
Objective 7 – Local amenity – litter, graffiti, illegal dumping etc.			
7A	Participate in Cleanup Australia Day: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify sites, (Whitebridge High – newsletter), Use Cleanup Australia Day website, Promotion and publicise a clean up day as a community event, and Promote cleanup through posters, store windows etc. Source Cleanup kit from Council. 	High School P and C, GPT, Fernleigh Track, and Chamber of Commerce.	Increased local participation in Cleanup Australia Day.
7B	Reduce graffiti incidents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore change in perception - look at graffiti as “Community Art”, Support a graffiti competition on a designated wall, have voting on a webpage, Look at area close to Charlestown Oval or close to Youth Centre, Investigate solutions to graffiti on street signs, Minimise impact of tagging, and Involve disconnected youth, organise youth forum for them to voice their opinion - promote to high schools. 	Lake Macquarie Youth Advisory Committee, Local artists, Charlestown Youth Centre, and local High Schools.	A vibrant and inclusive street art culture.
7C	Reduce illegal dumping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide greenwaste points for material to prevent dumping in the reserve. 	Potential Community Garden and Council and Landcare education resources.	Clean and safe bushland.
Objective 8 – Produce food locally			
6A	Establish a community garden: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form a Committee or Community Garden group, Find suitable location for land (review ideas from pool day)- Next to childcare Centre, next to Kahibah Shops (very public land), next to Kahibah Rd, near Glebe St, Get permission - Lease arrangements, Fund raising by growing and selling herbs, Workshops eg. keeping chickens, composting, gold coin donations - identifying and drawing on local expertise (Tom Toogood), Design garden (Pavel), Communication promotion - talk to community (Ellen), Compost/ Worm Farming , food market - develop these from community garden project once progressing, Creating a meeting spot where people come together to learn about backyard gardens, Utilise the garden for Environmental workshops - energy, water usage, Get schools involved, Seek grant funds from government and private sources, Seek assistance and get castings (donation), Have local people also donate compostable materials, Visit Newcastle Council’s Community Greening Centre for workshops, Give local schools and community groups ownership of gardens for working bees and education, and Involve mainstream media. 	Rebates and Council bulk purchasing deals.	Increased uptake of solar hot water systems.
8B	Use fruit trees for street tree planting	Permaculture Hunter	Public fruit trees.
8C	Increased productivity in peoples backyards	Permaculture Hunter	Healthier residents.
8D	Set up a local food market	Chamber of Commerce	Local food market.
8E	Establish composting and worm farming hubs.	Local community garden movement	Retention of local organic matter.
8F	Keeping poultry for eggs and meat.	Permaculture Hunter	More chickens.

Action Plan

Neighbourhood Actions		Resources	Outcomes
Objective 9 – Waste Minimisation			
9A	Green waste recycling service: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify suitable locations for green waste storage, Use mulcher, and people can take mulch back to their garden, or community garden or pedestrian track - mobile chipper, Educate on domestic compost – create awareness on what to do with grass. 	Council's Waste Educator	Greater diversion of green waste from landfill.
9B	Increased recycling capacity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared garbage bin - reduce volumes and frequency pickup, and Lobby Council for weekly recycling pickup. 	Current waste services	Increased recycling rates and efficient waste services.
Objective 10 – Build Charlestown east Sustainable Neighbourhood Group			
10A	Promote activities for Sustainable Neighbourhoods	Charlestown Swim Centre, Charlestown Library, Local Schools, and local community groups.	A strong active group
10B	Meet regularly to progress SNAP	Charlestown Central Leagues Club Board Room	A connected active group
10C	Maintain regular contact .	Email	A connected active group

Charlestown East Key Community Contacts

Name	Organisation	Phone	Email
Jean McGarry	Charlestown East Sustainable Neighbourhood	0419 232 914	jean.mcgarry3@bigpond.com
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