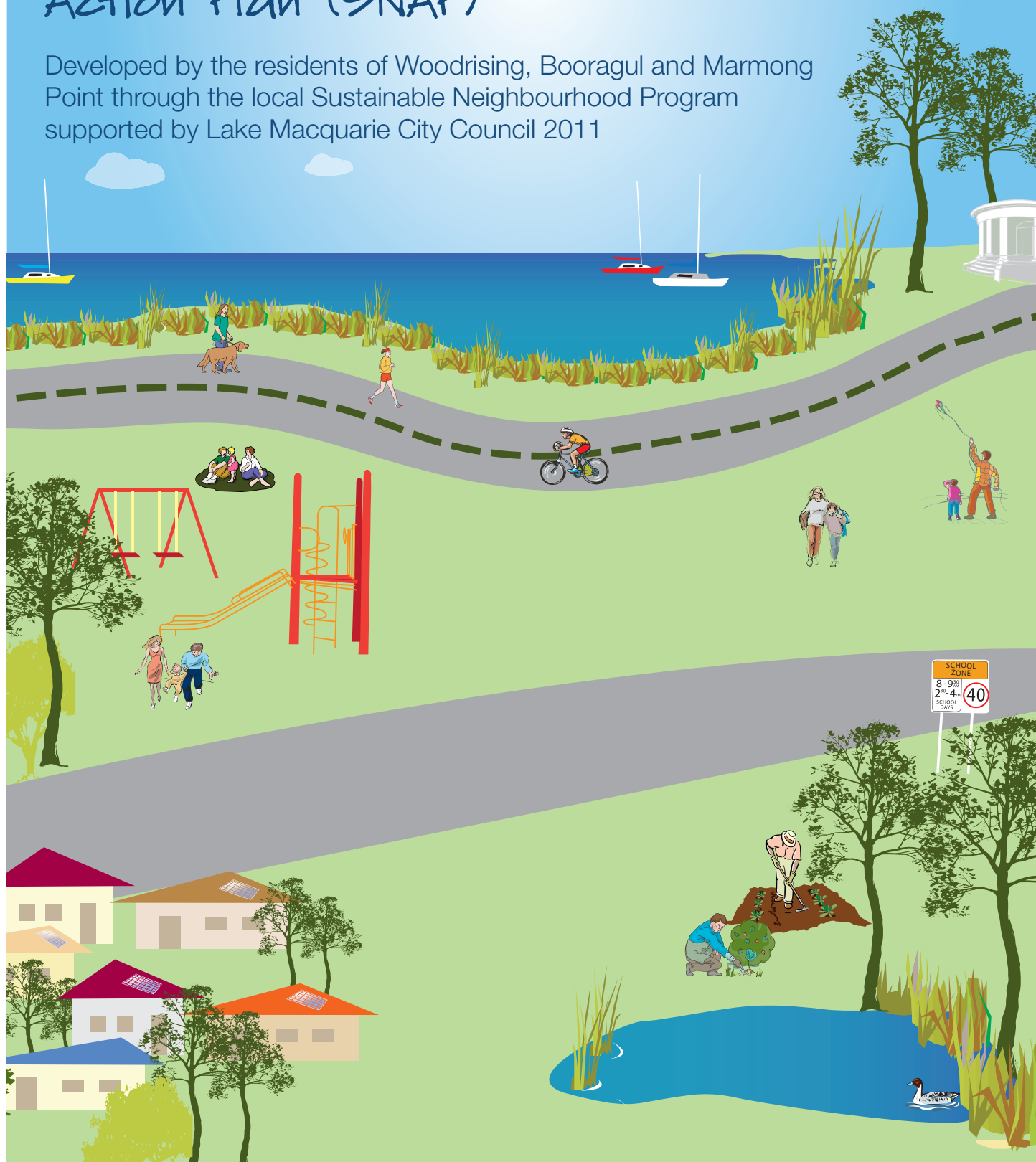


Woodrising, Booragul and Marmong Point



Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP)

Developed by the residents of Woodrising, Booragul and Marmong Point through the local Sustainable Neighbourhood Program supported by Lake Macquarie City Council 2011



The Sustainable Neighbourhood Program

Reducing the city's 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 community-based initiative, which enables communities to develop their own Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP), implement actions that reduce their ecological footprint and increase the wellbeing of their neighbourhood.

Growing a Sustainable Woodrising, Booragul and Marmong Point: Methodology

Since November 2009, over 300 Woodrising, Booragul and Marmong Point residents have directly contributed their ideas and energy towards developing this plan. During the activities outlined below, residents shared their local knowledge, expressed their neighbourhood values and identified the local sustainability issues they are most passionate about. The Woodrising, Booragul and Marmong Point Sustainable Neighbourhood Group was formed, and sustainability projects were identified and prioritised by the community to form the Action Plan on page 8.

Summary of community engagement activities:

20 November 2009	Introductory Community Workshop – ‘Understanding the Woodrising, Booragul and Marmong Point Neighbourhood and Community’
20 February 2010	Woodrising Shopping Centre Sustainable Neighbourhoods Display and Tree Giveaway <i>(supported by Trees in Newcastle)</i>
7 March 2010	Clean Up Australia Day - Marmong Creek <i>(organised by the Marmong Creek Landcare Group and the Quigley Sustainability Landcare Group)</i>
March 2010	Woodrising, Booragul and Marmong Point Sustainable Neighbourhood Community Survey <i>(sponsored by Woodrising IGA)</i>
21 March 2010	Lions Park Market Sustainable Neighbourhood Stall
15 May 2010	Neighbourhood Swap Party <i>(supported by Woodrising Bakery)</i>
11 June 2010	High Schools’ Sustainable Neighbourhood Forum (Lake Macquarie High School, St Paul’s High School Booragul, Charlton Christian College)
19 June 2010	Woodrising, Booragul and Marmong Point Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Planning Workshop – ‘Discovering What Can Be’
6 March 2011	Clean Up Australia Day - Marmong Creek <i>(organised by the Marmong Creek Landcare Group)</i> and the Booragul Foreshore
Ongoing	Monthly Sustainable Neighbourhood Group meetings



Sustainable
Neighbourhoods workshop



Clean Up Australia Day 2010
- Marmong Creek



Our Neighbourhood

Located on the traditional land of the Awabakal people on the western side of Lake Macquarie, our neighbourhood includes Woodrising, Booragul and Marmong Point. The neighbourhood is an urban area including well-established and newly developed areas. The neighbourhood features a diverse array of natural, recreational, built, community and cultural assets, some of which are featured on the map below.

Natural & Recreational Features:

1. Marmong Creek
2. Marmong Wetlands
3. Lake Macquarie
4. Edwards Park
5. Awaba Bay
6. Marmong Point
7. Coastal Plains Smooth-barked Apple Woodland
8. Coastal Foothills Spotted Gum Ironbark Forest
9. Coastal Plains Scribbly Gum Woodland

Built features:

10. Woodrising Shopping Centre
11. Marina

Community assets:

12. Marmong Point Community Hall
13. Woodrising OOSH & Youth Centre
14. Woodrising Community Preschool and Child Care Centre
15. Woodrising Neighbourhood Centre
16. Marmong Creek Landcare Site
17. Lake Macquarie High School
18. St Paul's High School Booragul
19. Five Islands School
20. Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery
21. Booragul Public School
22. Anglican Care Retirement Living Village

Cultural:

23. Quigley grave



Community Profile

Our neighbourhood includes approximately 3,393 people in 1,183 households. Selected statistics from the 2006 Australian Bureau of Statistics Census are shown below.

	Neighbourhood	Lake Macquarie
A slightly older population compared to the rest of the City	Median age 42	Median age 40
A higher proportion of the population is in need of care or assistance	9% need assistance	5% need assistance
A relatively high proportion of single parent families in comparison to the City	22% of families	17% of families
A lower percentage of residents are homeowners compared to the City however a higher percentage are in the process of owning their home	40% currently purchasing	34% currently purchasing
The main occupations of residents include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technicians & trade persons (18%)• Clerical and administration (16%)• Professionals (12%)• Labourers (12%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professionals (18%)• Technicians & trade persons (17%)• Clerical and administration (15%)• Labourers (10%)
Residents volunteer their time to the community	16% volunteer	17% volunteer

Neighbourhood Survey

In March 2010, Council distributed the self-return *Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program – Community Research Survey 2010* to every household in Woodrising, Booragul and Marmong Point comprising of 1,183 households. 12% of households returned the survey.

Residents value the friendliness, the beautiful environment, the quiet area and bushland most about living in the neighbourhood. Residents enjoy the natural features of their neighbourhood, with 86% stating they had visited natural environments such as a lake, river, creek, park or bushland in the past four weeks.

The most important sustainability issues for the neighbourhood include protecting and improving the natural environment, making the neighbourhood bike and pedestrian friendly, reducing waste, littering and illegal dumping, the cleanliness of the Lake, maintaining parks and gardens and graffiti.

Residents demonstrated that they have undertaken measures to reduce their household ecological footprint with 85% of survey participants stating they had installed insulation, 80% had water efficient appliances and fittings in their homes, 67% had energy efficient appliances and 57% had native plants in their garden.

The majority of survey respondents already do or would consider participating in a home audit of their backyard, energy, waste and water use (78%), participate in a neighbourhood clean up (76%), grow native gardens (70%), monitor the health of the local environment (68%) and/or attend a community picnic/BBQ with informative displays and children's activities (60%).

55% either strongly agree or agree that climate change will have a direct impact on their life over the next 20 years. 61% strongly agree or agree that the actions of the average person have a large impact on slowing climate change.

The information from this survey was combined with information gathered at the Sustainable Neighbourhood workshops and other engagement activities to develop the Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan. To read the full survey report please visit www.lakemac.com.au and search Woodrising, Booragul and Marmong Point Sustainable Neighbourhood Survey.

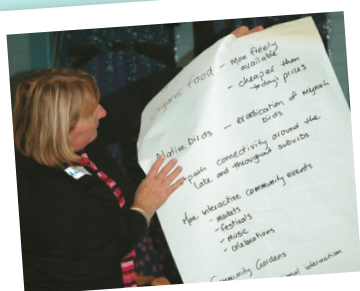


Join us! *Be a part of something positive*

The Woodrising, Booragul and Marmong Point Sustainable Neighbourhood Group is made up of community members who live in or identify closely with the neighbourhood through work, volunteering, friends and family or other means of connection. The Sustainable Neighbourhood Group is committed to implementing this plan, and to monitoring and reviewing it annually.

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

Name	Position	Phone	Email
Kathy Gall	Chairperson	0412 858 019	rosegall@ozemail.com.au
Dawn Brown	Assistant Chairperson	4950 5329	sunrises@optusnet.com.au
Peter Kalms	Secretary	0419 036 818	peterkalms@gaspmail.com.au
Dot Seiffert	Treasurer	0414 583 194 0409 788 684 4958 3194	
Kelly Wood	Senior Sustainability Engagement Officer Lake Macquarie City Council	4921 0333	kwood@lakemac.nsw.gov.au



*Planning actions at the
Sustainable Neighbourhood workshop*



*Local High Schools Sustainable
Neighbourhoods Forum*

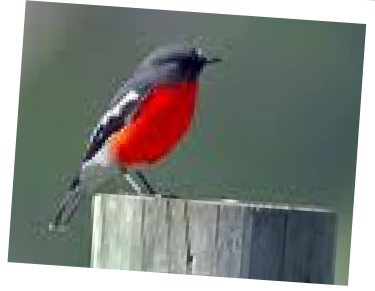


Understanding our community



Woodrising, Booragul and Marmong Point Residents Value

1. The beauty and peacefulness of the natural areas within the neighbourhood including diverse bushland, lots of trees, the Lake, Marmong Creek and wetlands as well as an abundance of native wildlife.
2. Our friendly neighbourhood where the community supports and cares for each other.
3. A sense of community pride that celebrates who we are and where we live.
4. The convenience of having a variety of shops, schools, community services and facilities within the neighbourhood as well as easy access to larger town centres.
5. An outdoor lifestyle with local opportunities to enjoy recreational activities such as walking, fishing, rowing, sailing, boating, picnics, barbeques and fun in the park.
6. Our concern for the wellbeing of present and future generations and our commitment to reducing our individual and collective ecological footprint.



Flame Robin



Local drumming group - sustainable Neighbourhoods workshop



Edwards Park



Local High Schools sustainable Neighbourhoods Forum



Lake Macquarie HS, St Pauls HS and Charlton College students make sculptures of what they love about the neighbourhood



Booragul Public School

"I have made a mixing spoon. To make a community we need to work together. Like when a mixing spoon gathers together the ingredients to make a cake. The cake represents our community and the spoon represents the people working together"
Local high school student



Community vision

Woodrising, Booragul and Marmong Point is a thriving sustainable neighbourhood where:

- All residents are actively involved in making a difference in the community and feel a sense of belonging and community pride.
- Young people make positive contributions to the neighbourhood and are valued and supported by the community.
- The streets and local public spaces are flourishing with residents walking, cycling, socialising with neighbours and undertaking recreational activities.
- The neighbourhood is attractive, clean and celebrated through street art and a variety of other community projects.
- Local ecosystems are healthy and rich in biodiversity, and are protected, enhanced and enjoyed by local residents.
- Residents are regularly involved with activities that reduce their ecological footprint.

Achieving our vision

Residents of Woodrising, Booragul and Marmong Point are committed to working towards their vision for the neighbourhood by completing projects that address the objectives outlined in this Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP).

Throughout the Sustainable Neighbourhood Program's engagement activities, an abundance of local resources were identified such as natural and built assets, community groups, organisations and services, as well as the skills of individual residents. The Woodrising, Booragul and Marmong Point Sustainable Neighbourhood Group holds a detailed database of these resources to assist with the implementation of this SNAP.

"I value how close and friendly everyone in this community are"

Local high school student



Local High Schools Sustainable Neighbourhoods Forum



Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery Sculpture Park & Awaba House



Peron's Tree Frog - LMCC Flagship species found in local area



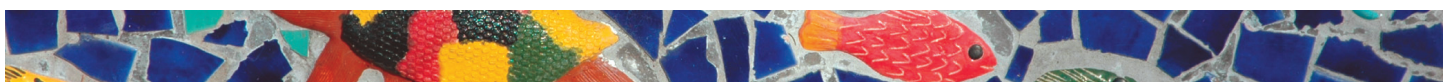
Residents reduce waste sent to landfill - Neighbourhood Swap Party



Sustainable Neighbourhood Actions 2011-2020

Living sustainably

Neighbourhood Actions		2020 Outcomes
Objective 1: Reduce the community's dependency on cars		
1.1	<p>Make cycling a desirable and safe option for transport and recreation within the neighbourhood</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with Council and other relevant agencies to increase the number of cycleways within the neighbourhood Engage with Council and other relevant agencies to improve the connectivity between cycleways and places of interest e.g. the Woodrising shops Seek grant opportunities and engage with Council and other relevant agencies to install bike racks or other safe storage areas for bikes at key locations throughout the neighbourhood such as bus stops, Booragul train station and the Woodrising shopping centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The neighbourhood has a sufficient network of cycleways that are well connected and safe to use Cycling is a convenient option due to the number of facilities available e.g. bike racks Residents regularly use cycleways as means of transport There are less cars on the road
1.2	<p>Make walking a desirable and safe experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide local schools with assistance and encouragement to establish walking school buses Work with Council to increase footpaths and pedestrian crossings in strategic areas around the neighbourhood Work with Council to make walking a safe and pleasurable activity through adequate maintenance of footpaths, street lighting and connectivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School students are actively engaged in walking school bus programs Residents feel safe to walk in the neighbourhood There is increased pedestrian activity in the neighbourhood The neighbourhood is a friendlier place
1.3	<p>Promote and encourage car pooling initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research car pooling opportunities and establish a car pool network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More people are travelling together and neighbours are getting to know one another There are less cars on the road
1.4	<p>Identify opportunities to establish community-based transport initiatives</p> <p>Some community groups own their own mini buses, which are sometimes under utilised. There may be an opportunity to expand the services of community buses to the broader community, which could have a mutual benefit for the community group and local residents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community buses are a valued community asset A community bus transport system is a viable economic and social enterprise within the neighbourhood More people have access to transport There are less cars on the road
1.5	<p>Establish communication channels with relevant government transport agencies and private bus companies to improve local public transport especially with regard to frequency of stops at Booragul train station, clearly marking bus stops, increasing the number of bus shelters, timetabling and general efficiency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public transport is a convenient and safe option for residents Public transport is used regularly by residents There are less cars on the road
1.6	<p>Increase the number of local activities in the area (See Objective 9)</p>	<p>(See Objective 9)</p>



Objective 2: Reduce the impact of consumption and reduce waste

2.1	Organise a series of community swap parties or local car boot sales. Neighbours get together to swap or sell household goods they no longer want such as books, clothes, CDs, kitchenware, toys etc. This concept is based on the premise that "one person's trash is another person's treasure"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residents donate household items and source second hand items rather than always buying new things - Residents socialise together
2.2	Work with businesses and Council to have more local e-waste days or drop-off points in the neighbourhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residents significantly reduce the amount of e-waste they send to landfill
2.3	Establish a series of shared composting, green waste and/or worm farm systems around the neighbourhood (See Action 3.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residents have access to a series of shared composting and worm farming systems - Residents recycle their organic matter locally - Residents use and have access to a plentiful supply of local nutrient rich and chemical free compost and fertiliser for their gardens - A significant reduction in the amount of organic matter sent to landfill
2.4	Organise mulching days (See Action 3.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residents reuse their garden waste on their gardens - A significant reduction in the amount of organic matter sent to landfill
2.5	Visit local established worm farms and composting systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More residents are worm farming and composting at home - Organic waste is diverted from landfill
2.6	Support Council's three bin Waste Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residents are fully aware of Council's three bin Waste Strategy and use their bins appropriately

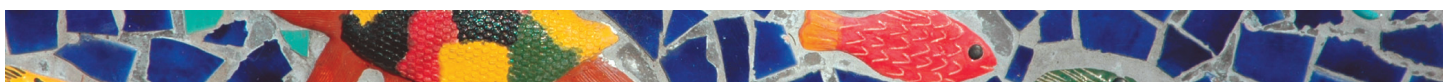
Objective 3: Increase opportunities for localised food production

3.1	Establish a community garden in the neighbourhood <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with the wider community and generate interest • Create connections within the community • Form a community garden committee/working group • Investigate options for suitable locations • Seek expert advice • Submit a proposal to the land owner seeking permission to use the land • Look for funding opportunities through grants and sponsorship as well as donations for resources such as tools and plants • Utilise the garden for educational workshops and community events (See Action 2.4 and Objective 9) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A vibrant community garden is a valued asset of the local community where residents come together to share knowledge and skills, socialise and grow food
3.2	Establish and support a local growers market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residents reduce their food miles by purchasing food products from local farmers
3.3	Organise "grow your own" competitions e.g. largest pumpkins (See Action 3.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residents get together to have fun and share their experiences growing their own fruit and vegetables - The community garden has a high profile within the community
3.4	Seasonal swap of locally grown food (See Action 3.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Less food is wasted and sent to landfill - Residents get to know one another and share their knowledge on growing vegetables
3.5	Promote and make use of Council's Sustainable Eating Guide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residents are aware of local organic producers and understand the Hunter seasonal harvest cycle



Protecting the natural environment

Neighbourhood Actions		2020 Outcomes
Objective 4: Protect and enhance natural bushland		
4.1	Encourage participation in current Landcare and Waterwatch groups and where necessary establish new groups	- Local Landcare and Waterwatch groups enjoy high community participation rates
4.2	Stay informed about development proposals on bushland, and participate in community consultation processes, working together as an organised and collaborative group	- Residents are aware of proposed developments in the community and are empowered by participating in the community consultation process
4.3	Implement an education program about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Native plants and weed identification Effects of household activities on the catchment and local bushland e.g. excess nutrients from washing detergents down the drain Creating native wildlife friendly backyards (See Action 4.6) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residents are educated about local native flora and fauna and how to protect the local catchment - Local bushland is rich in biodiversity and the local catchment is healthy
4.4	Seek grants for and erect educational signage in bushland areas highlighting natural values and features (See Action 6.3)	- Residents enjoy learning about the local bushland through interesting and easy to understand interpretational signage
4.5	Work with Council to develop initiatives that prevent erosion caused by activities such as motor bike riding in bushland (See Objective 6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Motor bike riders only ride in designated areas - Erosion in local bushland is minimised
4.6	Promote and participate in Council's Community Ecosystem Monitoring Program and/or Habitat for Wildlife Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local residents are engaged through Council's Community Ecosystem Monitoring and Habitat for Wildlife Programs - The community has a good understanding of the different local ecosystems, flora and fauna - Local backyards are rich in biodiversity
Objective 5: Manage and control feral animals		
5.1	Establish a community Indian Myna bird program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Council and keep updated on the establishment of a Council facilitated community trapping program Educate the community about how to correctly identify Indian Mynas and deter them from occupying backyards and public spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The community has a good understanding of the impacts of Indian Myna birds, and what they can do to discourage and control them - The Indian Myna bird population is reduced - Local biodiversity is protected
5.2	Lead a community education campaign on responsible pet ownership	- Increased awareness about responsible pet ownership
5.3	Report fox sightings to Council	- Council is well informed about fox numbers in the neighbourhood
Also see Action 4.6		
Objective 6: Improve the condition of the Lake, Marmong Creek and Marmong Wetlands		
6.1	Hold regular clean-ups of Marmong Creek and Marmong Wetlands with Council support (See Actions 6.4 and 7.5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residents are involved in activities to clean up the local waterways - Marmong Creek and Marmong Wetlands are healthy and litter-free
6.2	Lead a community education program about maintaining healthy waterways with regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Litter including cigarette butts (See Actions 6.1 and 7.5) Dog faeces "The drain is just for rain" (See Action 7.5) Connect education to relevant Council programs and strategies e.g. Estuary Management Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The community is educated about how to maintain healthy waterways - Local waterways are healthy
6.3	Seek grants for and erect educational signage along waterways highlighting the values of these areas (See Action 4.4)	- Residents enjoy learning about the local waterways through interesting and easy to understand interpretational signage
6.4	Establish an Adopt a Spot Program with businesses and residents to look after different sections of waterways (See Actions 6.1 and 7.5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Businesses and residents are actively involved in looking after local waterways - Local waterways are healthy
Also see Action 4.1, 4.2 and 4.6		



Enhancing community wellbeing and pride

Neighbourhood Actions		2020 Outcomes
Objective 7: Enhance the appearance and atmosphere of the neighbourhood		
7.1	Hold a graffiti removal blitz that has an intergenerational approach with different sections of the community working together - this could occur on Graffiti Action Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residents across a wide cross-section of the neighbourhood are actively involved in cleaning up graffiti - Woodrising, Booragul and Marmong Point is free from graffiti
7.2	Establish a reporting mechanism to advise Council of graffiti incidents enabling Council to remove graffiti in a timely manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A graffiti reporting mechanism is established and Council is well informed about graffiti hot spots in the neighbourhood
7.3	Investigate other innovative graffiti prevention initiatives undertaken in other areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Sustainable Neighbourhood Group has researched a wide variety of successful projects that combat graffiti, which may be used in the local area
7.4	Run a community street art program, which engages with the local youth community and establishes a sense of place and ownership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate feasibility for a graffiti wall • Organise a mural project with local schools and youth groups • Seek grant opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth are actively involved in creating colourful and vibrant spaces in the neighbourhood - The neighbourhood boasts colourful street art that celebrates the community and conveys sustainability messages
7.5	Organise an anti-littering campaign (See Actions 6.1, 6.2 and 6.4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek grant opportunities • Join existing programs such as the "Don't Be a Tosser Campaign" • Work with Council to ensure that enough cigarette butt bins and other garbage and recycling bins are available in public places 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All residents take responsibility for eliminating litter - Residents enjoy a litter-free neighbourhood
Objective 8: Ensure community groups are well supported		
8.1	Develop and/or promote a directory for local community groups in consultation with the Woodrising Neighbourhood Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community groups are well supported, valued and connected - Residents are fully aware of and engage with local groups community services
8.2	Hold an open day to showcase all local community groups in the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community groups are well supported, valued and connected - Residents are fully aware of and engage with local groups community services
8.3	Build connections with relevant community groups throughout the project development stage and the implementation of the actions outlined in this Action Plan – work collaboratively and share resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A strong relationship is established between the Sustainable Neighbourhood Group and other local community groups - All community groups work together and share resources to reach common goals



Objective 9: Create more opportunities for local activities and events to enhance community spirit and pride

9.1	<p>Encourage and support group activities, events and celebrations in public spaces for example,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community BBQs • Street parties/inter-street competitions • Neighbourhood clean ups (See Objective 7) • Movie screenings • Flea market/swap parties/car boot sales (See Objective 2) • Open day for community groups (See Action 8.2) • Capitalise on special community days such as World Environment Day, Harmony Week etc. • See Objective 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public spaces are well utilised for a variety of community led activities - Residents enjoy getting together in public spaces to learn, share and celebrate
9.2	<p>Investigate opportunities to hold more sporting events in the neighbourhood by utilising current facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for local sporting events are realised
9.3	<p>Build a stronger relationship with the Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold conversations about opportunities for neighbourhood art projects and events (See Action 7.4) • Promote Art Gallery events through the Sustainable Neighbourhood Group's networks • Promote the Sustainable Neighbourhood Group's activities through the Art Gallery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Sustainable Neighbourhood Group and the Art Gallery support and promote each other's activities - The Art Gallery is valued and well used by local residents

Also see Actions 3.1 and 3.2



Residents create a vision for the neighbourhood



Community celebration - Woodrising shopping centre



Eastern Spinebill



Residents reduce their eco footprints
- Neighbourhood Swap Party



Lake Macquarie Art Gallery Sculpture Park - Booragui



Residents discuss what they love about the neighbourhood
- Woodrising shopping centre

