

Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance Inc

Board meeting – AGENDA

Tuesday 21 June 2022, 6-7.15pm

Council Admin Building, Speers Point + hybrid option via Teams, [Click here to join the meeting](#)



Present: Robyn Charlton, Gabrielle Clappison, Steve Dewar, Sam Doove, Mark Howells, Nico Marcar, Jean McGarry, Anna Noon, Bruce Tozer

Tara Thomas (Observer)

Rachelle McConville (Council)

Apologies: Mackenzie

Online: Anna, Tara, Nico, Jean

F2F: Rachelle, Mark, Gab, Robyn, Sam, Bruce, Steve

Welcome and acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Awabakal people, as the traditional owners of the lands around Lake Macquarie, and paid respects to Aboriginal elders past, present and emerging, and to other Aboriginal people attending.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Business Supporters

Three businesses have signed up as supporters so far.

<http://www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/supporters.html>. Two are businesses run by SN volunteers, and 1 was recruited by Gab through a networking opportunity.

A number of approaches have been made so far eg through Five Bays and Plastic Free Cafes project. Businesses (maybe 50% ish?) seemed keen, but have not followed through yet.

Some recruitment ideas:

- Request to SN groups for feedback. How many businesses have they visited and/or followed up with? Have they gotten a sense from them about willingness and/or ability to sign up?
- Could do a social media campaign to encourage new sign ups. Haven't done any yet. Could highlight our 3 existing Business Supporters. May help encourage people over the line who have been approached already.
- Personal approach is likely to be most successful. Encourage and clarify with SN members to seek out people they know who have local businesses.
- Some clarity / more specific about what we intend to do with the money.
- Also promote more tangible benefits to businesses eg potential for promotion opportunities. Balance between promising and volunteer workload/capacity to follow through.
- Request to do a presentation to local business chamber

2. Mutual obligation registration

We received a request from the Cardiff Area SNG about registering as an organisation with Services Australia (Centrelink) to allow volunteers to count their SN hours as part of their mutual obligation requirements.

The Alliance [can apply](#), and if approved, a relevant SN representative can then sign a volunteer's '[Verification of voluntary work form \(SU462\)](#)' for the relevant period.

Note that it will only be suitable for volunteers who are doing a regular, predictable role, and not for roles that are ad hoc or short term. It will be important for the volunteer and relevant SN group to maintain accurate attendance records, but we should be doing that for all volunteers in any case.

Proposal: The Alliance to apply to register as an organisation with Services Australia (Centrelink)

ACTION: Gab to complete the form and submit in person at Centrelink service centre.

PROJECT UPDATES, REPORT BACKS, UPCOMING EVENTS

3. Local group visits

Reminder about purpose of board member visits. Suggested talking points

- What local projects is group working on?
- Are there opportunities for collaboration with other groups and citywide projects?
- What additional support can the Alliance offer?
- Some citywide projects they can get involved in, eg Business Supporters and Plastic Free Cafes

- **Redhead – Steve**

Redhead is a great group regrouping after Colin move away. Their newsletter and social media are important, the new Boardwalk Brews Cafe is advocating sustainable living, there's also a market once a month. Their Energy Wave project has possibilities for other SNGs. They mentioned Nova's Community Energy. Awaba Battery was discussed. The Redhead BMX track is going ahead despite late community opposition.

Issues: the changes to Bulk Waste were not popular, particularly as many jobs in pick-up recycling would be lost. I mentioned the Green Shed Recycling in Canberra could be copied at Awaba Tip. Last few days' storms have left the beach littered with small plastic pieces. Need for beach cleanup! Small plastic sticks very evident. I pointed out that Sydney Water upgraded their sieve system at their plants as these sticks are from cotton buds. Also, balloons and their silver blowup containers were everywhere as people had parties! I think it's time for a ban!

Any further report backs?

- Cardiff – Anna (Nico backup)
- Five Bays – Bruce

- Greater Charlestown – Steve
- Pelican Area – Jean - complete. Rachele will circulate report via email.
- Warners Bay – Jean

4. Renewing Sustainable Neighbourhoods

Survey reports now completed, just waiting for review, and will be sent out to participants & board when approved. Received 244 responses (4% return rate) from Sugar Valley area, and 492 (5% return rate) from Belmont area.

Planning for gathering events in late August/early Sept. Intend to invite board members and/or representatives from local groups to attend and talk with new participants. Noted value of having existing volunteers at previous events.

5. National Volunteer Week celebration, 22 May

45 attendees from Landcare and SN. Nice to have a combined event, and interesting talk on seagrass from Janet White. Well organised and enjoyable event.

6. Valentine Our Place Our Patches, 4 June

Walking tour of local gardens. Generally well received by attendees. 20 people in total with two from VSNG. Anna & Gayle were the tour leaders. Some discussion on what worked well and what we could do differently next time. Idea to showcase fewer properties and have some more in-depth coverage on easy 'no-dig' gardens, improving your soil, edibles, bird attractants etc.

7. Toronto pop up stall

On Saturday June 4, Toronto Area Sustainable Neighbourhood Group held a stall in Toronto to celebrate World Environment Day on the Sunday and alert the public about the ban on single use plastic bags (including bio and compostable bags) on June 1. We had a number of handouts including cloth reusable bags, low water shower heads, and especially the net veggie bags! Handouts for living sustainably proved very popular. A petition to get Coles, Aldi and IGA to follow Woolies' phase out of the cheap, 15 cent, thicker plastic bags was signed by many people, and later given to Managers of those supermarkets.

Possible future event at Fennel Bay markets.

8. Work Health Safety training, 15 June

11 attendees. Valuable session to understand risk management process and health & safety obligations for volunteers.

Rachele planning to develop online Health and Safety training tool to help make important content more accessible for more volunteers.

9. Repair Café, 12 June

Went great – relaxed. Estimate 60 people attending. Fewer repairers than usual but benefit was to have conversations with people. Lots of learning.

Looking forward to Rathmines event 23 July.

10. Plastic Free cafes and coffee trucks

36 cafes and coffee vans engaged to distribute reusable coffee cups. 2000 cups – nearly all gone.

Media release and promotions went well. Interview 2NUR

Based on the Community Environment Grant, we managed to spread the \$2 Bamboo reusable coffee cups to 35+ cafes and coffee vans from Cameron Park to Wyee and West Wallsend to Redhead. Tried to target smaller coffee places doing it tough and as many coffee vans as possible, although hard to find as they move around a lot! Only 1 cafe in Caves Beach did not want to participate. All the others found it a win-win, were so supportive. This No 3 give-out has been popular, but emphasised to public to clean the cup thoroughly and don't forget to bring it when you go to get coffee. Didn't have enough money to push metal straws and other non-plastics. Thanks to SNGs who helped. Hope to use remaining \$300 buying a few cups as part of Choose to Reuse at Living Smart Festival. I did hand out business contributions leaflet...will emphasise it when I visit them again.

11. ReLeaf

Blackalls Park site has been approved.

We have money donated for the cost of the plants and ReLeaf banner has been made that can be used citywide. The money for that has also been donated.

Our next hurdle, which I am working on, is the mulch. We need to use a composted forest mulch. LMCC gets theirs from OZ Mulch. There could be a cost involved, especially as the site needs 34 m3 of mulch. I am now raising funds for this. Donations welcome.

Hopefully we can assist Rathmines SNG as they are in a similar situation with the mulch.

There are 8 weeks till NTD.... Lots happening.

ReLeaf team noted that the engagement report relating to 3 recent strategies put to Council eg [Urban Greening Strategy](#) (pp56-60) resulted in very few changes made in response to community feedback. Some members noted a historical pattern.

12. Tiny forest

ABC Newcastle interview <https://www.abc.net.au/newcastle/programs/breakfast/tiny-forests/13911528>

Tasmania interview:

Still waiting for Council to work through site options.

13. Greening projects risk management

Risk management template and project proposal template is progressing. Robyn and Suzanne are testing out the draft document for their upcoming greening projects.

14. LSF project team

Suggest establishing a project team to decide on and plan for key activities.

Gayle, Anna, Tara, Steve, Adeline, Gab, Sam have expressed interest so far.

TASNG decided to continue the message of "Recycle and Reuse" (including bamboo reusable coffee cups) at the Living Smart Festival in September and the mooted car boot event in October. The next ban on plastic straws, plastic cutlery and plates, plastic cotton buds and microbeads is due on November 1 this year!

Some great waste audit data from Council – Local info about specific contamination items that would be good to focus on.

Recyclemate website – help to find recycling options for lots of items.

Raffle for ReLeaf fundraiser – idea.

Rachelle to convene project team meeting to progress.

15. Upcoming events:

- Boomerang Bags, 26 June & 31 July
- Rathmines Repair Café, 23 July
- National Tree Day, 31 July – Blackalls Park tree planting TBC

16. RISK ASSESSMENTS AND REQUESTS

- None received

17. TREASURER'S REPORT

May Treasurer's Report – attached below.

18. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Meeting minutes were circulated via email.

Resolution: Confirm that the previous meeting minutes, dated 17 May 2022, are an accurate record.

Moved: Steve. Seconded: Gab. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

17 May – 16 June 2022

- Invitation from the Sooty Owls to view and share their 'fun enviro-punk song on consumerism, overconsumption and plastic waste', <https://youtu.be/f36bxWT9QFw>
- Updated membership list received from Toronto Area SNG
- Opportunity to participate in Plastic Free Cafes project – sent to SN Key Contacts
- Confirmation with Council of payment details for Rathmines Area SNG grant
- Acquittal report submitted to Council for Worm Farm workshop (using old grant funds from Wangi Scarecrow Competition)
- Invitation to SN Key Contacts – seeking involvement to help plan for Sustainable Neighbourhood activities at the Living Smart Festival
- Invitation from Our Community to enter the 2022 Not-for-profit treasurers' awards – Forwarded to Jean to enter the part about sharing insights
- Sustainable Neighbourhood News, 26 May
- Interview request regarding proposed Battery Energy Storage System in Awaba
- Request to promote TIN/NPWS planting day at Glenrock
- Media release: Plastic Free Cafes and Coffee Vans – sent to local media outlets
- Enquiry / offer of private land block for Tiny Forest project
- Reminder regarding Health and Safety training – Sent to SN Key Contacts
- Community survey regarding proposed Battery Energy Storage System in Awaba – Sent to SN Key Contacts
- Notice of successful grant – Community planting project Styles Point – Rathmines Area SNG

- Entry submitted to the 2022 Not for profit Treasurer's Awards

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 19 July, 6pm

Council Admin Building

DRAFT

LAKE MACQUARIE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS ALLIANCE

GENERAL MEETING

TREASURER'S REPORT

1 May, 2022 to 31 May, 2022



Account 724181724 with Greater Bank, Charlestown Branch.

Balance

\$ 15,441.92 CR

RECEIPTS

11 May 2022	Osko P'mt D. J. Piper ReLeaf Banner	\$ 100.00
12 May 2022	EFTLMCC 12798	\$ 3,195.00
25 May 2022	Osko P'mt D. J. Piper ReLeaf Banner	170.00
26 May 2022	EFT Hunter Water – Tiny Forest Grant Anna Noon	<u>\$10,000.00</u>
Total Income		\$13,465.00

EXPENDITURE

05 May 2022	Wdl10136646 Scarecrow hire 062-822 00900859 T'to Comm. Cent. Hub	\$ 45.00
05 May 2022	BPay Wdl 55645370 DEFT Ins 406371226463941	\$ 2,145.00
05 May 2022	Bpay Wdl 55645420 DEFT Ins 040637122646883	\$ 1,050.00
13 May 2022	Wdl Ref 09131178 Printing Repair Caf S.Carter	70.00
18 May 2022	Wdl Ref 08465185 Worm farm A.Noon	146.44
19 May 2022	Wdl Ref 09203489 worm farm Tree Frog Perm	240.00
31 May 2022	Wdl Ref. 14181059 Counter top display S. Dewar 812-170 7350555	<u>42.00</u>
Total Expenditure		\$ 3,738.44

BALANCE

\$ CR 25,168.48

This is a true statement of accounts for the Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhoods Alliance Inc. for the period 1 May, to 31 May 2022.

Signed _____

Name Jean McGarry

Title Hon Treasurer

Date 21 June, 2022.

DRAFT