

Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance Inc

Board meeting – MINUTES

Wednesday 24 August 2022, 6-7.15pm

Online via Teams



Invited: Robyn Charlton, Gabrielle Clappison, Steve Dewar, Sam Doove, Mark Howells, Nico Marcar, Jean McGarry, Mackenzie Robson, Bruce Tozer

Rachelle McConville (Council)

Apologies:

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. Alliance board meeting timing

Request to change regular meeting time to Wednesday evenings, 1st or 4th Wednesday of the month.

Resolution: Agreed to change meeting times to the first Wednesday of each month, starting Wednesday 5 October.

PROJECT UPDATES, REPORT BACKS, UPCOMING EVENTS

2. Alliance AGM date

Confirming **Wednesday 2 November, 6pm** as AGM date.

Rachelle noted a few local groups have their AGMs scheduled for October, so did not send out a request to bring the Alliance's AGM forward.

General note for board members to consider roles Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Officer + Ordinary board members. Good time to identify any specific skills or roles we'd like on the board and to identify/talk to other SN network members about becoming board members. Can also try recruiting new board members and volunteers more generally through noticeboards and closely aligned networks like Landcare.

Robyn noted she won't be nominating for a board role at the upcoming AGM, given personal commitments on her time.

3. Living Smart Festival

Activities and plans are shaping up for the festival:

- General SN recruitment
- Reusables & recycling

- Waste to Art display
- Repair It demonstrations & Circular economy display
- Nature play activities and ReLeaf stall

Volunteer numbers are looking good for Saturday, but need more volunteers for Sunday. Fallback if we don't have enough volunteers for Sunday is to combine displays in the heritage shed.

Note Rachelle on leave as of Saturday ~midday, so also looking for volunteer(s) to:

- Secure stalls on Saturday afternoon / shift or combine if needed.
- Pack up on Sunday afternoon and ensure equipment and Waste to Art works are safely picked up/stored.

4. Renewing Sustainable Neighbourhoods

Gathering events 27 Aug Sugar Valley and 3 Sep Belmont. Belmont bookings looking good, but Sugar Valley less so. Likely to cancel Sugar Valley event, and seek alternative engagement activities to connect with residents in this area.

5. Plastic Free cafes and coffee trucks

\$1,142.14 left in 'plastic free' funds (made up of \$158 in grant funding; and \$984.14 from accumulated donations). Planning purchase of additional cups to offer for donation at Living Smart Festival.

Finally finished the latest round of bamboo coffee cups. Many thanks to Toronto, West Wallsend, Warners Bay, Charlestown and Pelican SNGs for helping. This was a Lake Mac-wide activity!

Overall, we have battled Covid disruptions, coffee vans that move around constantly, varied hours for cafes....but managed to use 50+ cafes/ coffee vans and give out 1300+ collapsible and bamboo coffee cups! I would have liked to do more coffee vans and kept finding more and more all the time!

I personally believe reusable coffee cups are the solution to the 1 billion disposable coffee cups....66,000 tons....going to landfill each year in Australia. Compostable and Bio Cups are no solution!

The 2 problems I had were how to recycle the silicone in the collapsible coffee cups and the tops to bamboo cups. I think there will be silicone recycling in Australia in the near future as it is a better, more inert product than plastic. This is the Circular Economy in action as the bamboo can be reconstituted as new products. Also, with the latest bamboo cups, one lady found the silicone top split. I believe the top is tight, but, with care, it can be lifted and the cup cleaned. The cup itself is very strong. I still want to order a few more of these cups for the Living Smart Festival (to go with any left over cups) with the leftover grant money. Can I get approval please?

I found it hard to get Alliance donations as I was mainly pushing the cups, but I did try! I am going to make up a list of all the cafes so we can send a re-emphasising donations email! Finally, thanks to those great cafes which tried hard to get the Reuse/Get out of Plastics message out to the public! I think this was the main educational gain through the Plastic Free Cafes and Coffee Vans campaign. I noticed a genuine change against plastic-lined disposable coffee Cups and other plastics over the 2 years!! How many birds and sea creatures have we saved! I think we can continue the message!

6. Repair Café, 28 August

Next event coming up this Sunday. Need more promotions for the Visible Mending workshop.

Have schedule to end of year. Keen to collaborate with other SNGs to hold Repair events in other areas.

7. Repair summit report

Sam and Gab spent two days in Canberra for the Australian Repair Summit.

The event turned out to be a wonderful opportunity to connect with both community repair initiatives elsewhere and gain an understanding of broader right to repair issues and progress. Specific areas highlighted included all the complexities associated with the right to repair ag machinery, medical devices and car after care which is the subject of Australia's first piece of 'right to repair' legislation.

Outcomes from the event for our initiative included:

- creating networks with other repair cafe initiatives
- ideas and improvements that we can implement to enhance the effectiveness of our events
- opportunity to promote our work via Clean Up Australia headquarters after connecting with Pip Kiernan
- potentially leading the establishment of a network for community repair initiatives across Australia, with the assistance of Monash University.
- connecting with the fixable.co founder and potential for collaboration/promotion.
- feeding into some research from Sydney Uni about CRRCs and community repair.

Overall a worthwhile activity to connect in person with relevant people who can help us to amplify what we are doing with Repair It.

We also took a detour to check out Watson's tiny forest. Gabby will share with Releaf.

8. ReLeaf

Blackalls Park planting event went well.

Tree Trail is progressing. Plaques are being ordered. Launch event tentatively scheduled for 12 November.

9. Rathmines Planting project

First preparation day went well. Ran out of mulch and cardboard but have plenty now.

17 people attending. Some difficulty sourcing seedlings because of recent lack of sunshine.

10. Tiny forest

Preferred site has been tested, and confirmed free of contamination. Aiming for plantings in March.

11. Shared pathways

Steve noted need for more shared pathways, particularly on the western side of the city.

12. RISK ASSESSMENTS AND REQUESTS

- Rathmines planting project risk management plan – Update required re Dial Before you Dig. Completed.

13. TREASURER'S REPORT

July Treasurer's Report – attached below.

14. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Meeting minutes were circulated via email.

Resolution: Confirm that the previous meeting minutes, dated 20 July 2022, are an accurate record.

Moved: Steve

Seconded: Jean.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

19 July - 22 August 2022

- Requests to existing Business Supporters to promote via social media
- Draft position statement on single-use coffee cups and lids – request from Boomerang Alliance
- Request to newsletter list for volunteers for SN activities at Living Smart Festival
- Ausgrid Resilience Focus Group opportunity – Forwarded to SN Key Contacts
- HCEC Power Station Closures public meeting – Invitation forwarded to SN Key Contacts
- Invitations to contact lists and stakeholders for Belmont and Sugar Valley Sustainable Neighbourhood gatherings
- Sustainable Neighbourhood News, August 2022
- Confirmation from Services Australia that Alliance is approved as a 'Voluntary Work Organisation'.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 5 October

Time and date to be confirmed. Possibly coincide with Electric Vehicle talk from Council.

Meeting closed: 7.03pm

LAKE MACQUARIE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD ALLIANCE INC.

GENERAL MEETING

TREASURER'S REPORT

1 July, 2022 to 31 July, 2022



Account 724181724 with Greater Bank, Charlestown Branch.

Balance **\$ 27,291.40 CR**

RECEIPTS

NIL

Total Income **\$ NIL**

EXPENDITURE

21 July 2022	Wdl Ref 06132226 GBS Bunnings 012-349 558027456 S. McEwan	\$ 532.80
21 July 2022	Tsfr to 637-000 724188044 Our Comm'ty Place	150.00
21 July 2022	Wdl ref 56316121 Tsfr to LMCC Crn 03338571	250.00

Total Expenditure **\$ 932.80**

BALANCE **\$ CR 26,358.60**

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

Signed _____

Name Jean McGarry

Title Hon Treasurer

Date 15 August, 2022