

Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance Inc

Board meeting – MINUTES

Wednesday 27 April 2022, 6-7.15pm

Online via MS Teams



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

Rachelle McConville (Council)

Apologies: Gabrielle Clappison, Sam Doove, Mackenzie Robson

Welcome and acknowledgement of Country

Nico welcomed everyone to the meeting. Nico acknowledged 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. Insurance renewal

Renewal documents received from Austcover while Rachelle and Margo were on leave.

Awaiting response from Austcover regarding questions about:

- Policy Schedule
- Sub groups
- Repair café activities (bike and electrical repairs)

Coverage has been extended to 28 April, but will seek additional extension, given the delay in receiving documents from Austcover, and holiday period. Otherwise, will wait for response to points above before confirming policy payment.

ACTION: Rachelle to urgently seek further extension and cover note for upcoming events.

2. Local group visits

- Valentine – Sam. Small but committed group with lots of great ideas. Suggested to go ahead with one low risk, low cost idea to get some runs on the board and build confidence.
They are planning a walking garden tour in Valentine followed by morning tea. I think they will do really well once they put on a few small events and gain some momentum.
Also talked about bulk waste changes. I passed on the feedback to Hal as there seems to be a theme from enviro minded people that the current system already is an effective way or reuse. (Even though stats don't support that.)
- Gab attended the Rathmines meeting – report coming.
- Other visits are being set up to attend for May.

PROJECT UPDATES, REPORT BACKS, UPCOMING EVENTS

3. 2022 Litter Congress – Report from Steve

What a change from a sole focus on Littering in 2019 to the full gamut right to the Circular Economy! Government under Matt Kean has led the way with single use plastic bags banned June 1 and plastic straws, cutlery, cotton buds, microbeads banned Nov 1!

Return and Earn good success and might be expanded. Change in behaviour is the key for littering and we emphasised fastfood litter and EPA is campaigning on Industrial litter. Sources of litter along beaches and streams is often upstream! Sutherland Shire found many plastic sticks from cotton buds were getting through Sydney Water Sewerage filters. Must check if Hunter Water has similar issues...Bruce's committee. Great projects on cigarette Butt Litter. Vaping a new problem! We must look into the use of Seabins for our lake. Crumbling tyre rubber surfaces a problem!

A number of circular economy projects and Swap systems are up and running. And to bring all those various recycling centres for a whole range of products under one system....[RECYCLEMaATE](#) app is launching. Longer summary later!

4. Lake Mac Tiny Forest

Successful Love Water Grant from Hunter Water, \$10,000.

Currently seeking commitment from Council to identify a site. Want to be more confident about that before seeking further sponsors.

5. Meeting with Mayor, Councillors and staff, 23 March – report back

Nico circulated a letter of thanks to Council attendees. Valuable to meet staff and Councillors and have them recognise what SN is about.

Would be good to routinely remember to invite Councillors to significant SN events.

Can also ask staff to come and talk with board and/or broader network about current projects or specific issues.

6. Renewing SN Groups

Approx 400 survey responses received to date. Data entry currently underway. Noted some errors on the 'Sugar Valley' hard copy, but shouldn't impact survey responses.

7. Canva account

The Alliance has a 'pro' Canva account, with 10 seats available. Contact Rachelle if this would be useful for your SN group.

8. Upcoming events:

- **Repair Café major event, 1 May**
- **Clean Up Australia event, Marks Point, 7 May**
- **Worm farm workshop, Toronto, 14 May**

- **National Volunteer Week celebration, 21 May.** Note same date as federal election, and many SN members will be busy. Rachele to check if can be moved to Sunday.

9. Past events:

- **Council info session, Bulk Waste** - 16 attendees. Rachele to ask Council staff if there is still opportunity to provide comment.
- **Repair It Make and Mend session, Belmont library, 23 March**
- **Warners Bay – Assisting school with golf day, 1 April**
- **Centennial Coal meeting, 21 April** – 11 attendees
- **Boomerang Bags sewing group, 24 April**

10. RISK ASSESSMENTS AND REQUESTS

- **Worm farm workshop, Toronto** – Risk assessment circulated and approved via email.
- **Centennial Coal meeting, Five Bays** – Risk assessment circulated and approved via email.
- **Toronto SNG – face to face meetings** – Risk assessment circulated and approved via email.

11. TREASURER'S REPORT

February Treasurer's Report below.

ACTION: Jean will circulate March Treasurer's report + Q3 (Jan-Mar22) Project Expenditure Report via email.

12. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Meeting minutes were circulated via email.

Resolution: Confirm that the previous meeting minutes, dated 15 March 2022, are an accurate record.

Moved: Steve. Seconded: Anna. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

11 March – 26 April 2022

- Alliance submission to Council Urban Greening Strategy
- Acquittal and evaluation report for Community Harmony Initiative (TASNG project), submitted to events team to acquit spent funds. Related proposal to spend remaining grant funds on Car Boot Sale event. Approval received from Council to proceed with new event application.
- Letter of thanks from Council for contribution to the Coastal Zone Management Committee, and invitation to participate in upcoming term.

- Various correspondence with Austcover to seek renewal documentation and additional questions. Confirmation received that existing policies remain in place until 28 April, due to delays from Austcover.
- Invitation to SN Key Contacts to attend information session with Council staff about the bulk waste service.
- Request from Wilderness Society to attend their community forum event at Warners Bay
- Approval received from Council event team to use remaining grant funds from Wangi Scarecrow Competition for a work farming workshop.
- Dudley Community Garden grant project final report submitted to Council. Acquittal confirmed by Council.
- Copy of letter from Cardiff Area SNG to Council, requesting return of casual hire of community halls. Community halls have been unavailable for casual hire since covid restrictions started, and their unavailability severely restricts the events the group is able to hold.
- Letter from Nico thanking staff and elected officials for meeting on 23 March.
- Grant application submitted to Council Environmental Sustainability Grants for Rathmines Planting Project.
- Request submitted to Council for grant extension for the Cardiff Pollinator Project, to June 2022. Approval received.
- New Business Supporter sign up received: MCB Business Partners
- Sustainable Neighbourhood News, 30 March

Meeting end 7.30pm

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 17 May, 6pm

Council Admin Building

February Treasurer's Report (Circulated via email, 17 March)



LAKE MACQUARIE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS ALLIANCE

GENERAL MEETING

TREASURER'S REPORT

1 February to 28 February, 2022

Account 724181724 with Greater Bank, Charlestown Branch.

Balance **\$ 18,937.59 CR**

RECEIPTS

24 Feb 2022 EFT Dep STRIPE – Ryp04YNVS05 M'ships \$ 100.00

Total Income **\$ 100.00**

EXPENDITURE

02 Feb Thpar ref 12193165 Pamper Care 401.27
650 000 982767322 R Charlton

24 Feb Fees, STRIPE remittance 5.36

Total Expenditure **\$ 406.63**

BALANCE **\$ 18,630.96 CR**

This is a true statement of accounts for the Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhoods Alliance Inc. for the period 1 February to 28 February 2022.

Signed _____

Name Jean McGarry

Title Hon Treasurer

Date 10 February, 2022.