

Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance Inc

Board meeting – MINUTES

Wednesday 2 August 2023, 6.00-7.30pm

Invited: Gabrielle Clappison, Nico Marcar, Bruce Robertson, Bruce Tozer, Steve Dewar

Rachelle McConville, Council

Apologies: Jean McGarry, Mackenzie Robson



MINUTES

Meeting opened 6.02pm

1. Welcome and acknowledgement of Country

Gab welcomed everyone to the meeting. Gab acknowledged the Awabakal people as the Traditional Owners of the lands around Lake Macquarie and extended respects to Elders past and present. She also encouraged everyone to walk on Munibung Hill and noted that the area is a special place for Awabakal people.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

2. Bank signatories

At the July meeting Mackenzie noted that he is signed up as a signatory, but doesn't have a user name and password to be able to access the Alliance's internet banking account.

Mackenzie emailed the board to note that this is in progress.

3. Hunter Community Alliance update

Following last month's discussion, David Barrow (Organiser, HCA) has approached us to see if he can attend an upcoming board meeting. We also received a request from the Greater Charlestown SNG to invite David to speak with the board.

Proposed talking points to ask David about:

- Purpose and objectives of the HCA
- their current projects, priorities and achievements
- what are the roles, rights and responsibilities of member organisations

Resolution: Rachelle to invite David to attend the September board meeting to talk to the above points.

4. Board member recruitment – identifying key skills and attributes

Bruce R circulated an updated proposal to board members for discussion, including suggestions for:

- Defining / agreeing on desirable board members skills and attributes
- Survey of SN group member interests

Some discussion around:

- Linking skills required with Alliance's Strategic Plan
- Staying within SN scope and objectives
- Promoting benefits and rewards of joining the board
- Targeting younger people and women to balance representation

- Idea to ask local groups to nominate one or more new board members
- Board members can identify which skills they are bringing already

ACTION: Rachelle to circulate proposal for board member feedback and discussion via email.

5. Living Smart Festival

Large (9mx4.5m) marquee TBC for all Sustainable Neighbourhoods activities to be located together including local groups & projects, Plastic Free, ReLeaf, Repair Cafe and Waste to Art displays.

Warners Bay Area SNG have also been engaged separately by Council to deliver nature play activities.

ACTION: Rachelle to send out volunteer request.

PROJECT UPDATES, REPORT BACKS, UPCOMING EVENTS

Note: Please read through these prior to the meeting. We will not read out each item at the meeting, but there will be opportunity to add recent information or ask questions.

6. Annual report

Currently collating info from local groups.

7. September display at umali barai-ku

Promote the Living Smart Festival.

8. Plastics Campaign

that we encourage all SNGs to educate the Lakemac public for the rest of the year on ways of lessening the use of plastics...eg.. saying NO to plastic bags for vegetables, to recycled plastic bags, to over packaging, to plastic-lined takeaway coffee cups, and encourage people to use the new Awaba soft plastic recycling scheme, and what to do with new alternatives to plastics, etc.

Note recent webinar: Hidden climate cost of Australia's Plastic Consumption, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g6rrgtZBfhg>.

ACTION: Rachelle to include plastics education and action ideas in upcoming newsletter

9. Climate Change resilience

From many workshops (Ausgrid, Toronto to Teralba Resilience, July 29 Energy Resilience) it's time to canvas Lakemac City Council (maybe its Emergency Management Committee) to bring in preparedness measures to deal with Climate Change events.....such as an education campaign to get people to clean gutters, etc, to use ABC radio for emergencies, where to evacuate to, where to recharge phones, vulnerable people evacuation, fire preparedness plans, etc

Note Council has existing campaigns around emergency preparedness: <https://www.lakemac.com.au/For-residents/Emergencies>, regular Eco Advocate and social promotions.

ACTION: Steve will draft request to Council about how SN might help amplify existing messages.

10. Tiny Forest

Draft final report for Hunter Water grant received from Anna for review. Rachelle will circulate to board.

11. ReLeaf Citizen science project

Action from June meeting. Jean to prepare ReLeaf proposal for next board meeting about potential for citizen science program to compare / evaluate success at range of SN greening sites. Note Landcare volunteers are likely to be keen to contribute.

12. Waste to Art

Registrations are now open: sustainableighbourhoods.org.au/waste-to-art.

13. Repair It Lake Mac

Next event 5 August at umali barai-ku.

Gab planning to attend the National Repair Summit <https://www.griffith.edu.au/law-futures-centre/our-research/australian-repair-network> in Canberra Friday August 11th. Maybe we can invite them to LSF in 2024.

14. Solar Sense project, Valentine

Planning workshop for 24 September.

15. Board visits to local groups

Thank you to board members who have visited groups so far and provided their reports via email. The reports are all collated in the board's shared drive.

Outstanding groups:

- Jean - Dudley
- Bruce R – Redhead – Next meeting in September

16. RISK ASSESSMENTS AND REQUESTS

- Warners Bay Area – Nature Play activity for Newcastle National Tree Day. Circulated and approved via email.
- Greater Charlestown Spring Fair – Risk assessment coming

17. TREASURER'S REPORT

The July Treasurer's Report is attached below.

Resolution: The board accepts the Treasurer's report.

Moved: Nico. Seconded: Steve. Carried

18. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

July meeting minutes were circulated via email.

Resolution: Confirm that the previous meeting minutes are an accurate record.

Moved: Gab. Seconded: Steve. Carried.

19. REGISTER OF INTERESTS

Board members are required to immediately declare any: direct or indirect pecuniary interest; or any non-pecuniary conflict of interest; or potential perception of a conflict of interest in any matter before the Board.

20. CORRESPONDENCE

4 July – 1 August 2023

- Invitation to seminar 'Running an Incorporated Association' – Sent to board members
- Confirmation from Commonwealth Bank that the Alliance has been included in their Community Donations campaign – voting is open until 11 August at <https://www.commbank.com.au/about-us/opportunity-initiatives/opportunity-from-community/commbank-community-donation-program.html> . Forwarded to SN Key contacts, and promotion in SN News and social media.
- Styles Point Planting Project – Final report for Community Environment Grant submitted to Council
- Invitation to Hunter Environment Centre's 'Speaking truth to coal power' event forwarded to SN Key Contacts
- Request to SN Key Contacts for volunteer hours, membership and partners for annual report
- Thank you letter to Mark Howells for his contribution to the board.
- Flyers and stickers for Council's 'Grounds to Garden' program posted to some SN volunteers for distribution to local cafes.
- Training opportunities with Institute of Community Directors Australia ICDA, forwarded to SN Key Contacts.
- State of Volunteering 2023 Survey – Forwarded to SN Key Contacts
- Update from Hunter Community Environment Centre regarding Vales Point extension – forwarded to board members.
- Sustainable Neighbourhood News, July 2023
- Application for Standpipe submitted to Hunter Water for use at the Booragul Tiny Forest site.
- Invitation to Council's 'Let's Talk Trees' event forwarded to SN Key Contacts.
- Request from Hunter Community Alliance and Greater Charlestown SNG to invite HCA rep to upcoming board meeting.
- 2023 Living Smart Festival stallholder applications are open
- Suggestion from Greater Charlestown SNG to join the Ritchies supermarket Community Benefit Program: <https://ritchies.com.au/ritchies-loyalty/community>.

21. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Note many people no longer have MS Office, so would be good to make Alliance docs more accessible with free software eg Libra office or Google docs.
- Extension of Vales Point and potential for ongoing coal ash issues there. Also transition at Eraring.
- 4 OzFish litter kits are still available – contact Bruce T
- National Tree Day talk was good. Note loss of significant trees at old Morisset Country Club development.
- Council installing new seating at Rathmines shops
- Rathmines Area SNG seeking update on progress towards the Rathmines Park Plan – contact Rachel Robson.
- Litter clean up at Warners Creek. Suggest Eco Angel litter clean up, and service request to Council. Rachelle to send details to Bruce R.

Meeting close: 7.18pm

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 6 September, 6pm

JULY TREASURER'S REPORT



LAKE MACQUARIE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD ALLIANCE

GENERAL MEETING

TREASURER'S REPORT

1 July to 31 July, 2023

Account 724181724 with Greater Bank, Charlestown Branch.

Balance **\$ 19,476.92 CR**

RECEIPTS

Total Income \$ NIL
\$ NIL

EXPENDITURE

03 July 2023	Wdl Thpar Transfer From Styles Point to Rathmines SNG	\$ 41.62
03 July	OSKO payment to J.M. Gerritson	<u>138.26</u>
Total Expenditure		\$ 179.88

BALANCE **\$ 19,297.04 CR**

This is a true statement of accounts for the Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhoods Alliance Inc. for the period 1 July, to 31 July, 2023.

Signed _____

Name Jean McGarry

Title Hon Treasurer

Date 1 August, 2023