

Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance Inc

Board meeting – MINUTES

Wednesday 7 June 2023, 6.00-7.30pm

Online

Present: Gabrielle Clappison, Nico Marcar, Jean McGarry, Bruce Robertson, Bruce Tozer

Rachelle McConville, Council

Apologies: Steve Dewar, Mark Howells, Mackenzie Robson



AGENDA

1. Welcome and acknowledgement of Country

Gab welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged the Awabakal people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters in the Lake Macquarie area.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

2. Intern

Bruce met with the intern management team at UoN. They have commenced their work by incorporating the various advisory department people into our project.

They are extremely interested in this project and are prepared to assist The Alliance in any of our projects.

[Working list of specific project topics that could be assigned to an intern.](#)

Their advice on the options and opportunities that they are compiling will now be sent to us sometime next week. Bruce will forward when it's available.

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.

3. National Volunteer Week + Go Circular film screening

Successful evening, with 45 attendees, and great feedback about the film. Thanks to Warners Bay Area SNG and Munibung Hill Conservation Society and Council.

4. 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

5. Volunteer Survey

Survey report is almost complete! Rachelle will distribute to board members for review before distributing more broadly.

6. Tiny Forest

Tiny Forest planting days have been very successful. 51 year 3-6 students, 5 staff members and 4 volunteers from Teralba Public School planted an initial 167 trees, followed by a sold-out community planting day where 71 community members sowed another 510 plants. Saturday June 3rd, our Tree Keeper team (made up of 18 community volunteers and a local service club, who will care for and maintain the site for the first two years) added the final 70 native species.

More info at sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/tiny-forest and facebook.com/releaflakemac.

Discussion about investment vs benefits of Tiny Forest approach. Noted importance of support for more 'traditional' greening projects eg expanding and accelerating Cardiff Area SNG's Spare a Square project, and other greening projects on public and private land.

Promotion and education outcomes have been great for Tiny Forest, and we can do this for other greening projects as well, without a significant monetary cost. Also potential to deliver citizen science activities at other greening sites, and deliver education programs. Project suggestion for ReLeaf. Note Earthwatch Citizen Science protocols being implemented for the Tiny Forest that will provide a measure of success over first 2 years. Can these be used for other sites as well?

ACTION: 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.

7. Styles Point – progress on OzFish project

Planting day confirmed for Sunday 18 June. Details and registration here: <https://ozfish.org.au/event/styles-point-saltmarsh-restoration-nsw-june-2023/>.

8. Waste to Art

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

9. Repair It Lake Mac

Reports from April-June events coming. About 80 people at the June event. Lots of items kept out of landfill, but best outcome is lots of new connections and friendships developed.

10. Circular Economy presentation, + film screening and other workshops

11 May talk went very well, with estimated 30 people attending and great feedback.

Warners Bay Area and Greater Charlestown SNGs are planning on working together to deliver some more circular economy activities / workshops. Details coming.

11. Solar Sense, Valentine event

Solar Sense grant application submitted, and awaiting outcome from Council.

Also workshop scheduled for Valentine Area SNG is organising an event for 18 June to help residents understand solar power options, and hear from other locals who have gone through the process. Bookings essential at: events.humanitix.com/solar-sense-workshop.

12. Eraring Community Investment Fund

Funding opportunities. Find out more at <https://www.originenergy.com.au/about/who-we-are/what-we-do/generation/the-eraring-community-investment-fund/>

13. RISK ASSESSMENTS AND REQUESTS

- NA

14. TREASURER'S REPORT

May Treasurer's Report

Resolution: The board accepts the Treasurer's report.

Moved: Jean

Seconded: Gab

Carried

15. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

May meeting minutes were circulated via email.

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

Moved: Nico

Seconded: Jean

Carried

16. 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.

17. CORRESPONDENCE

2 May – 1 June 2023

- Going Circular film screening – Invitation to SN members for complimentary tickets
- Request from Belmont Library to help set up a Boomerang Bags group there. Awaiting volunteer position description to circulate.
- Confirmation of insurance coverage with Austcover for 1-25 April 2023.
- Invitation from Cessnock City Council for speaker to talk about Sustainable Neighbourhoods at their upcoming film night.
- Invitation to Tiny Forest Community Planting Day – sent to SN Key Contacts
- Sustainable Neighbourhood News, May 2023
- Welcome emails to new contacts from Electric Vehicle Day and Volunteer info session
- Request from Community Power Agency seeking advice for their upcoming energy resilience workshop
- Invitation to information session about Eraring Community Investment Fund – Sent to SN Key Contacts

18. GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Response to the Mayor about the Voice** – Noted that we didn't respond directly to the Mayor's request in time, but note that Council passed a motion supporting the Voice at a Council meeting.
- **Board skills audit** – Following from Bruce R's idea about identifying skills in the wider SN network, we were thinking it'd be good to start with doing this for the board first.
 - List important skills and attributes we want for the board to achieve our objectives.
 - Board members to self-identify their relevant skills and attributes they want to contribute to the board.
 - This will help us identify where there are gaps, and then target our recruitment efforts for the board.

Parallel process to ask of wider network as well. Could also be a project for an intern?
There will also be some outcomes from the survey that might contribute to this.

- **KAB NSW Sustainability Awards** – General agreement to nominate the Plastic Free Cafes project in the litter category.
- **Community Power Agency** - <https://cpagency.org.au/> . They are planning a community resilience workshop in late July. Rachelle will circulate the details when available.
- **Hunter Community Alliance** – We've been asked to become a Friend of the Alliance, thehca.org.au, \$250 pa fee to join. Board members to please consider for discussion at July meeting.

Meeting close: 7:30pm.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 5 July, 6pm

MAY TREASURER'S REPORT

LAKE MACQUARIE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD ALLIANCE

GENERAL MEETING

TREASURER'S REPORT

1 May 2023, 31 May, 2023



Account 724181724 with Greater Bank, Charlestown Branch.

Balance **\$ 27,963.46 CR**

RECEIPTS

05 May 2023	R.J.Halton, Pamper Care	\$ 100.00
18 May 2023	Lake Macquarie City Council	3,434.87
23 May 2023	Humanitix HP3J19THGO	<u>260.00</u>

Total Income **\$ 3,794.87**

EXPENDITURE

02 May 2023	Wdl AON insurance	\$ 3,018.93
02 May 2023	Osko Leggett Enterprises P/L (Tiny Forest)	4,500.00
09 May 2023	R. Charlton, Pamper Care	408.47
11 May 2023	Wdl DEFT Ins	415.94
17 May 2023	Wdl Lake Macquarie City Council	607.50
22 May 2023	Wdl M Colquhoun/A Noon, Hose (Tiny Forest)	345.00
22 May 2023	Wdl Drinkwater/Leggett Enterprises (Tiny Forest)	<u>11,700.00</u>

Total Expenditure **\$ 20,995.84**

BALANCE **\$ 10,762.49 CR**

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

Signed _____

Name Jean McGarry

Title Hon Treasurer

Date 1 June, 2023