

Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance

Ordinary Meeting

MINUTES

Tuesday 19 April 2016, 6.00 - 8.00pm

Committee Room, Lake Macquarie City Council Administration Building, Speers Point



Invitees:	Robyn Charlton (late), Indra Deamer, Norbert Lica, Avril Lockton, Jean McGarry, Colin Mondy, Dot Seiffert (late) Rachelle McConville (LMCC) Wes Hain (LMCC) Janet Purcell (LMCC)
Apologies:	Steve Dewar

1 Welcome & acknowledgement of Country

Colin offered to Chair the meeting as Dot arrived a little late.

The Chair also welcomed guests to the meeting:

- Wes Hain, Principal Strategic Planner, LMCC
- Janet Purcell, Sustainability Engagement Officer, LMCC. Janet is working on the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program and focussed on establishing the 2 new groups at Rathmines Area and Warners Bay Area.

Colin stated the Acknowledgement of Country:

We would like to acknowledge the Awabakal people who are the traditional custodians of this land. We would also like to pay respect to Elders both past and present of the Awabakal nation and extend that respect to other Aboriginal people present.

2 Apologies

As above

3 Guest speaker – Wes Hain, Principal Strategic Planner, LMCC

A background paper was circulated via email.

Council is currently initiating planning for wide community engagement to develop 'Lifestyle 2050', Council's long-term strategy document.

Wes is seeking advice from Alliance Board members to help Council build interest and awareness around Lifestyle 2050 and to ensure Council achieves broad engagement and receives broad informed feedback.

Board members provided their feedback and ideas around the following questions:

- What interests you about long-term city planning?
- How can we best engage with you and your friends/family about this project?
- What is the best way for Sustainable Neighbourhood Groups to continue to be involved in this project?

Wes thanked board members for their feedback, and will be in touch as the community engagement process develops.

4 Conflict of interest

None stated.

5 Previous meeting

5.1 Ordinary meeting minutes, 15 March 2016 as circulated

MOTION: *That the previous meeting minutes dated 15 March 2016, be confirmed as an accurate record.*

Moved: Colin. Seconded: Robyn. Carried.

5.2 Business arising from the minutes

- **2014/15 Accounts Audit** – Huw has responded now and just needs some more information – ACTION: Rachelle and Jean to send.

Update from Umwelt - Umwelt has offered \$2000 in sponsorship. No particular guidelines from them about how it should be spent, as long as it is in line with Alliance's work. They are seeking a meeting with their director, Travis Peake and ourselves. Will need to clarify / negotiate with them about sponsorship arrangements and expectations.

ACTION: Rachelle to follow up with Umwelt to arrange meeting with them.

6 Correspondence

- Save the date notification: Council's Living Smart Festival Saturday 24 September 2016.
- Thank you from the Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood Group for running the 'Recruiting and Managing Volunteers' training session. Members who attended found the session very valuable, and have reported their lessons back to the Redhead group.
- Copy of an Expression of Interest from the Caves Beach – Swansea Area SNG for the Hunter Local Land Service's Marine Debris Clean Up program.
- Redhead SNG – Copy of their submission to Council regarding dog management at Redhead Beach and reserves.
- Our Community Matters - Edition 2, 2016. (Newsletter from Our Community)
- Sustainable Neighbourhood News – sent to membership 31 March
- Notice of unsuccessful EOI – Charlton Stronger Communities Program (Memories Making Mosaics Project – Wangi Area SNG)

7 Treasurers report

7.1 Treasurer's report for February - March 2016

See report attached, below.

Moved: Avril. Seconded: Norbert. Carried.

8 For discussion & decision

8.1 Dog management

Redhead submission to Council circulated via email.

Redhead has now received a response from their submission, and seeking to arrange a meeting with Council staff.

Group has also completed a passive survey of entrances to Redhead beaches. The survey results were tabled. The survey highlighted the very large number of dogs off leash in on-leash areas (eg 22 – 83%

average 66%). Several incidents reported about dog attacks. And lots of dog poo (+ plastic bags) littered. Current signage and enforcement are inadequate.

Robyn noted that in the mid 90's Council ran a campaign based in Warners Bay with poo bags, bins and stickers 'your dog's litter makes people bitter!'

Suggestion that issues raised are relevant across Lake Macquarie, and that the Alliance could contribute by developing a 'Responsible Dog Ownership' brochure similar to the cat care one developed by LT Creek.

ACTION: Colin, Robyn and Indra to develop a project plan for a brochure to bring to the next board meeting.

8.2 Alliance stall at 'Plastic Paradise' screening? 12 May

Council is organising a free film screening of Plastic Paradise (www.plasticparadisemovie.com) on Thurs 12 May, with Tim Silverwood as a guest speaker. At this point the event is scheduled for 6-8.30pm at Glendale Cinema.

Possibly a good opportunity for the Alliance to promote the plastic bag campaign.

Alliance board agreed to have a promotional stall there. Jean & Colin are available to run the stall.

ACTION: Rachelle will confirm the Alliance stall with Council staff and assist to get display gear together.

Colin noted that the Total Environment Centre has an excellent educational display caravan, www.oceanactionpod.org and note that we encourage groups and the Alliance to book and make use of the great display of marine pollution and Plastics control.

9 Requests from member groups

9.1 Alliance stall at Charlton Seniors Expo, Friday 15 April

Risk assessment circulated and approved via email.

9.2 Greater Charlestown SNG – Grant application for Pit Pony Park project – stage 2 berm – Shortland Stronger Communities

EOI was successful and then required to submit complete grant application by 18 April. Circulated and approved via email.

Noted that the Alliance has agreed to be the official signatory to the grant agreement (if successful), and therefore responsible for overseeing the administration of the grant, but not the project activities themselves. Volunteers for this project will be managed directly by Council staff and insured by Council.

9.3 Caves Beach – Swansea Area SNG – Marine Debris Clean Up

Successful in their EOI to Hunter Local Land Services, and will receive \$500 to run 2 Eco Angel Clean Ups before mid June. Relevant risk assessments will be submitted to Alliance prior to events.

Tentative date is set for Sunday 5 June.

10 Report backs from member groups

10.1 Charlton Seniors Expo, Friday 15 April

Went well. Finished earlier than expected. Low participant numbers, stalls were set up awkwardly, and not particularly accessible. Got some new sign ups.

10.2 West Wallsend District SNG – Dob in a Dumper Campaign

The group have a Council grant for this project, to produce and distribute education leaflets and fridge magnets encouraging reporting of illegal dumping. They have been delayed since last year, on advice from Council staff, waiting for the EPA reporting website to become available, and it finally is, so they are now proceeding with their project.

10.3 West Wallsend District SNG – Old Waste, New Art competition

The group are currently planning and promoting entries for this year's competition, and have also provided some advice to the Caves Beach Swansea Area SNG about the challenges associated with running an event like OWNA.

10.4 LT Creek – Awaba Conservation Area

Ongoing campaign to have the Awaba Conservation Area formally gazetted to protect the high biodiversity and conservation values there. Have sent emails to Cooranbong, Toronto and Wangi SN groups, and Coal Point Progress Association requesting their support.

11 General business

11.1 Next Hunter Water Consultative Forum – 24 May

Question from Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood Group. They have been told on a number of occasions that cotton bud sticks (or chupa chup sticks?) are regularly found on the beach during litter clean ups because they are not captured by sewage filters. Can this be confirmed?
ACTION: Norbert to raise on the Alliance's behalf for the next forum .

11.2 Council's Environmental Sustainability Grants Committee

Thank you Jean and Colin for considering the applications and participating in the committee meeting as the Alliance representatives.

11.3 Bag making workshop – Redhead SNG

Teaching participants to make 3 different bags, and encourage participants to take their own reusable bags when shopping. Risk assessment submitted today, and will be circulated to board members for review.

11.4 Beyond Coal and Gas Gathering

Series of workshops attended by Norbert and Robyn.

11.5 Ecoburbia Festival, Narara High School

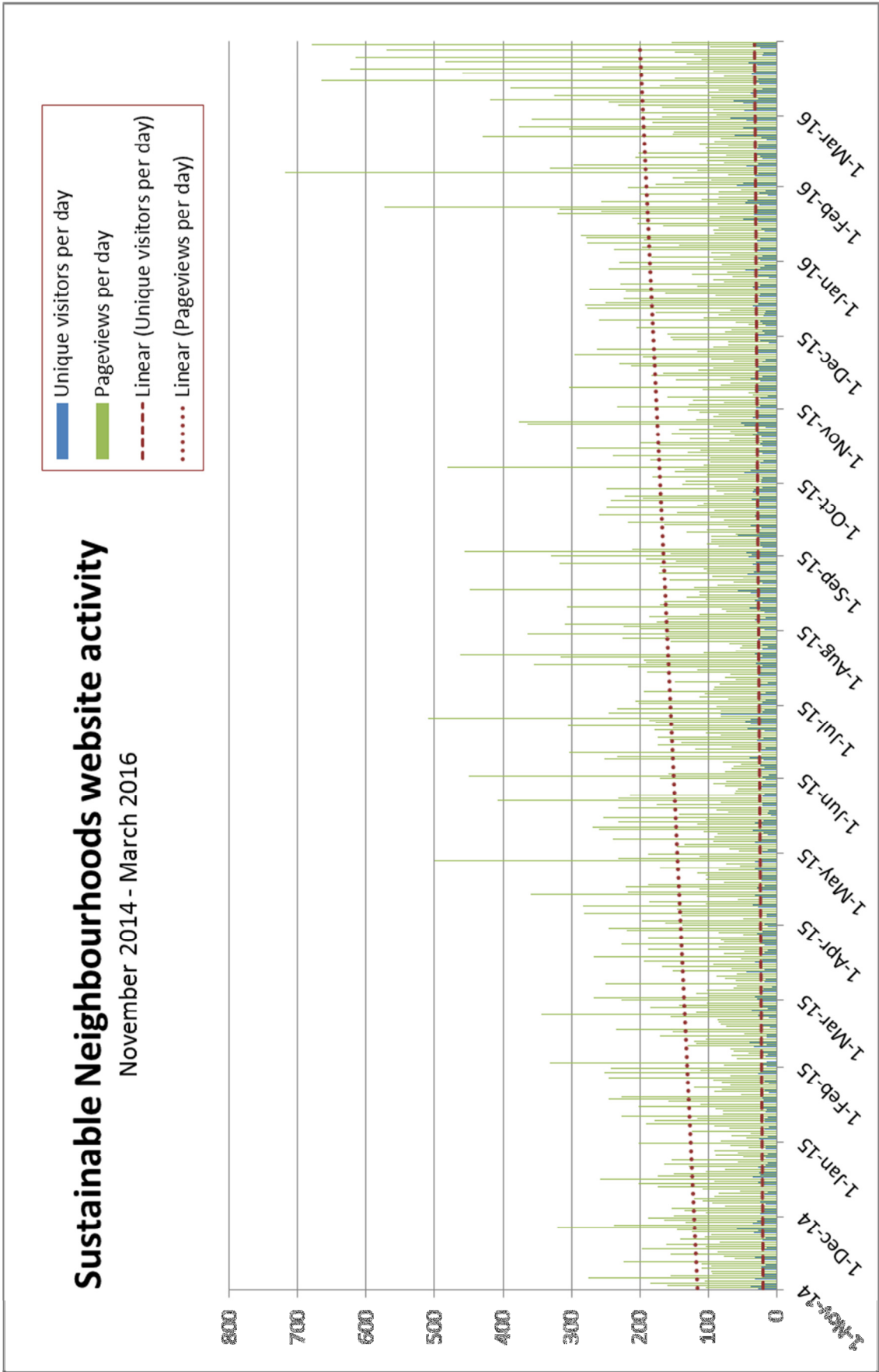
Norbert mentioned that he attended this festival.

11.6 Council upgrade of Webb Park

The Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood have been advocating for upgrades to Webb Park, and are pleased to see that it is now being recognised as more than a local park, but an important place for visitors to Redhead.

12 For information only

Summary of website statistics from November 2014 through to March 2016. See chart below.



13 Meeting close.

Next ordinary meeting date: Tuesday 17 May, 6-8pm

Treasurer's Report:

LAKE MACQUARIE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS ALLIANCE

GENERAL MEETING

TREASURER'S REPORT

1 February, 2016 to 31 March 2016.



Account 06 2806 10352969 with Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Charlestown Branch.

Balance **\$ 4,347.35CR**

RECEIPTS

01 February Interest Credit	0.04c
01 March Interest Credit	0.03c
Total Receipts	\$ 0.07c

EXPENDITURE

1 March Chq 000057 Cardiff Sust Nghd. Club	\$ 180.00
Total Expenditure	\$ 180.00

BALANCE **\$ 4,167.42**

This is a true statement of accounts for the Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhoods Alliance for the period 1 February to 31 March, 2016.

Signed _____

Name Jean McGarry

Title Hon Treasurer

Date 13 April, 2016.