

Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance

Ordinary Meeting

MINUTES

Tuesday 18 April 2017, 6.00 - 8.00pm

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



Invitees:	Robyn Charlton, Indra Deamer, Steve Dewar, Norbert Lica (arrived 7pm), Avril Lockton, Jean McGarry, Colin Mondy Dot Seiffert Rachelle McConville (LMCC) Ingrid Stansfield (Ability Links)
Apologies:	

1 Welcome & 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

None

3 Conflict of interest

None state.

4 Guest speaker – Ingrid Stansfield, Ability Links

Ability Links is a program that works with people with disabilities from 0-64years. They help people to reach their goals by connecting them in with community groups and services.

www.vinnies.org.au/page/Find_Help/NSW/Disability_Employment/Ability_Links/

Ability Links is run by St Vincent de Paul in the Hunter / Lake Mac. Ingrid's area covers Wyee – Teralba/Booragul.

Ingrid is seeking some feedback from the Alliance board about how Ability Links could connect with SNGs. They can offer the following services that may be suitable for Sustainable Neighbourhood events and projects:

- Hearing Loop equipment (can be used to assist people with hearing disabilities to hear a speech eg through a microphone) available. Can be loaned from Ability Links for SN events. Note promotional advice and logo are also available.
- Can also provide advice about inclusion in general, and how we can make our events more accessible for people with disabilities.

RESOLUTION: To update the Alliance risk assessment form to include actions to increase accessibility considerations for all of our events.

Moved: Avril. Seconded: Colin. Carried.

Rachelle to action as above.

5 Previous meeting

5.1 Ordinary meeting minutes, 21 March 2017

MOTION: *That the previous meeting minutes dated 21 March 2017, be confirmed as an accurate record.*

Moved: Steve. Seconded: Dot. Carried.

5.2 Business arising from the minutes

Outstanding actions from previous meetings:

- Paper/cardboard 'I heart my Dog' poop scoop bags. Colin contacted the suppliers in the Netherlands to see if they are available in Australia. The cost for 750 bags is AUD\$73 (= \$0.09/bag). But with the shipping it would be AUD\$204 for 750 bags (= \$0.27/bag). ACTION: Colin will follow up with manufacturers to investigate possibility of licencing a similar product in Australia. Or to find existing Australian manufacturers. Carried over from November meeting.
- ACTION: Suggestion to approach / research plastic manufacturers / packaging associations to tackle plastic packaging and pollution from the other end. – Carried over from November meeting.

6 Correspondence

- Content and images provided to Umwelt for them to add to their website.
- Information pack about the Banksia Sustainability Awards
- Invitation to nominate for the Blue Star Sustainability Awards
- 'Our Community Matters' – newsletter from Our Community
- Grants Newsletter – from Pat Conroy MP
- Request received from the Australian Business Register to update our details
- Permission received to reprint plastics infographic from the 1 million women website, to use for the plastic pollution stalls.

MOTION: *That the correspondence be confirmed as an accurate record.*

Moved: Steve. Seconded: Robyn. Carried.

7 Treasurers report

7.1 Treasurer's report for March 2017

See report attached, below.

MOTION: *That the Treasurers Report is accepted.*

Moved: Jean. Seconded: Steve. Carried.

8 For discussion & decision

8.1 Alliance mascot(s) / Council flagship species

Proposal: In order to assist the Council in the promotion and public awareness of the natural ecosystems in Lake Macquarie City the Alliance will adopt one or more Flagship Species, as described in the Council Program, as an integral part of its presentation to the public and member groups. The Alliance will encourage the adoption of one or more appropriate Flagship species by each of the Sustainable Neighbourhood groups.

Council's flagship species (and relevant ecosystem type) include:

- Superb Lyrebird (Rainforest)
- Powerful Owl (Forest)
- Grey Kangaroo (Woodland)
- Peron's Tree Frog (Wetland)
- Australian Emerald Dragonfly (Waterways)

- Northern Brown Bandicoot (Heath Complex)
- Blue Groper (Ocean)
- Cunjevoi (Coast)
- Seagrass (Lake)

More information about Councils flagship species at lakemac.com.au.

Encourage local SNGs to adopt one of the flagship species as a kind of mascot / use in their branding etc. Eg like Awaba Conservation Area has adopted 'Glinda' the squirrel glider as a mascot. This can also help to promote Council's flagship program.

RESOLUTION: That the Alliance adopt the Powerful Owl as its mascot, and encourage local SNGs to adopt a mascot as well.

Moved: Robyn. Seconded: Colin. Carried.

9 Requests from member groups

9.1 Cardiff Area SNG – Wreath making workshop

Risk assessment circulated via email.

Approved.

9.2 Cardiff Area SNG – Compost bin making workshop

Risk assessment circulated via email. Concerns about possible pets, and additional volunteers to supervise venue were addressed via email.

Approved.

9.3 Warners Bay Area SNG – Grant application, Nature Play workshop and equipment

Grant application circulated via email, and submitted to Hunter Local Land Services.

10 Report backs from member groups and projects

10.1 Plastic Bag Information Booths

Report-back from Steve. Rachelle will email the written report to board members.

Noted the importance of advocating to politicians to get action on a plastic bag ban.

Reported that people most often used plastic bags when they are going to the supermarket for a quick / unplanned trip for a couple of items (even though they then walk out with about 3-4 plastic bags full. Many are already organised to bring their reusable bags for a big weekly shop.

Steve also did an interview on ABC 1233 on the morning program, and there was an article in the Lake Mail.

Redhead Chemist is planning to implement a 'boomerang bags' type program for some of their products. Other shops in Redhead are also being approached to set up something similar.

Congratulations to Steve, and the team of volunteers who assisted for making the stalls happen.

10.2 Cardiff Area SNG - Eco Angel Clean Up – Cardiff South

Twelve volunteers attended, and helped to remove at least 5-6 ute loads of rubbish. Report and photos here: www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/eco-angel-cardiff-south.html

10.3 Rathmines Area SNG – Local Litter Check and Community Litter Grant application

Application was submitted 27 March. Now waiting to hear outcome.

10.4 Redhead ANZAC Centenary Project – Book launch

The book developed as part of Redhead SNG's ANZAC Centenary Project has now been completed, and the group is planning launch events in April and May. The book is called, 'Marching for Honour, Recognition and Adventure: The story of the participation of Redhead soldiers in World War 1' by Robert Neil Bowd.

Tuesday 9 May, 6.30pm – Redhead Public School – launch event. RSVP essential to sustainablethead@gmail.com.

50 have been printed to be given to people who assisted with the project. Looking to do another print run. Orders can be put in for \$20 to sustainablethead@gmail.com.

ACTION: Rachelle to let lake mac libraries know.

ACTION: Rachelle to help with media.

10.5 Warners Bay Area SNG launch event

Held at the Music in the Podium event on Friday 24 March. Weather was a bit rainy. A good chance to get their message out, and showcase their upcoming project ideas.

10.6 LT Creek SNG

ABC local 1233 radio interview Thursday 23 March, 8:50am.

Ceramic squirrel gliders are available for sale.

10.7 Native Trees Talk – Landcare Super Saturday Session

Landcare Super Saturday Session - 8 July – Native Tree Information Day – ID of native trees, street trees, backyard trees. Possible speakers include Graham Prichard (LMCC), Suzanne Pritchard (Coal Point Progress Association), Anne Loughram (Trees in Newcastle).

Possibly at Coal Point Progress Hall.

10.8 Sustainable Neighbourhoods review

The results from the visits to local SN group meetings have now been compiled, and are available in [this report](#).

We are still hoping to survey more people who attend SN events. The first lot of surveys was completed at the Rathmines launch. An additional (online) survey is available to send to people who have attended SN events. Still looking for more suitable SN events scheduled for April and May.

Council staff survey is now complete, and expect report to be completed by end of April. Councillor survey is currently in progress.

Once all of these review activities are complete, a summary report and recommendations will be produced.

10.9 Dog management brochure

The dog brochure has been reviewed by relevant Council staff, with a number of suggested text edits.

Next step is to include the updated text with design, before being approved for printing.

Suggested that it could have been better to consult with Council staff earlier.

Redhead SNG also completed another dog survey over the easter weekend. The results showed a very high numbers of dogs (280 in 1 hour), along with high number of non-compliances related to dog laws eg off leash where they shouldn't be / dog poo left behind etc. Redhead SNG will be putting another submission to Council rangers based on these recent results. Also some discussion and consideration of possible solutions including introducing time limits; and opening up other beach areas to take the pressure off Redhead beach.

10.10 Coastal Zone Management Committee (CZMC) Meeting, Wednesday 5 April

Report back from Colin. Colin noted that the CZMC meeting included a presentation about progress on Council's Coastal Zone Management Plan.

Coastal Zone Management Plan documents are available online, <https://lakemac.com.au/page.aspx?pid=109&vid=25&fid=244&ftype=FGrp>, and also as a hard copy on request to Council, 4921 0333.

10.11 Jewells Area SNG – current status

The Jewells Area SNG has decided to cease their regular meetings as they currently have only 2-4 regular meeting attendees, and are not able to commit to committee roles. Activity ideas that have come up seem to duplicate what is already happening at the Belmont Neighbourhood Centre, Belmont State Park / wetlands, and Landcare activities, so the group has decided that in those cases it would be better to direct people to those existing groups and events.

They have retained the option to operate on an ad-hoc basis for now, and will be able to resume activities if a project idea or opportunity arises. When it comes to the Alliance's AGM time (about October/November), we will need to revisit and make a decision about the formal status of the group.

10.12 Dudley Nature Play activities

Kate sent through some photos from their recent nature play activities. They will be added to the website.

This project still has some grant funds remaining – to design and install interpretive signs at the Awabakal education centre. Pending additional grant extension.

Request from board members to organise a presentation from Dudley SNG (and Warners Bay Area) about their nature play project to provide some inspiration and know-how for other groups.

10.13 Brighton Avenue Footpath project

Construction has started on the footpath. The grant funds (Community Building Partnership) have been paid to Council, as a contribution to the construction of the footpath.

Toronto Area SNG are planning a launch / celebration/media event for when it is completed.

11 Meeting close.

Meeting close: 8.20pm

Next meeting date: 16 May 2017, 6-8pm

Treasurer's Report:

LAKE MACQUARIE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS ALLIANCE

GENERAL MEETING

TREASURER'S REPORT

1 March to 31 March 2017.



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

Balance **\$ 22,746.69CR**

RECEIPTS

13 March Keep Aust Beaut. \$ 500.00

Total Receipts \$ 500.00

EXPENDITURE

Chq 000067 Simon Mudge \$ 311.05

Chq 000068 Lake Macquarie CC \$ 8,750.00

Total Expenditure \$ 9,061.05

BALANCE **\$ 14,185.64CR**

This is a true statement of accounts for the Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhoods Alliance for the period 1 March to 31 March 2017.

Signed _____

Name Jean McGarry

Title Hon Treasurer

Date 13 April, 2017.