

Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance

Ordinary Meeting

MINUTES

Tuesday 15 August 2017, 6.00 - 8.00pm

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



Present:	Robyn Charlton, Indra Deamer, Steve Dewar, Norbert Lica, Avril Lockton, Jean McGarry, Dot Seiffert Rachelle McConville (LMCC) Gabrielle Clappison (Warners Bay Area SNG)
Apologies:	Colin Mondy

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

3 Conflict of interest

4 Previous meeting

4.1 Ordinary meeting minutes, 18 July 2017

MOTION: That the previous meeting minutes dated 18 July 2017, be confirmed as an accurate record.

Moved: Steve. Seconded: Robyn. Carried.

4.2 Business arising from the minutes

Outstanding actions from previous meetings:

4.2.1 Action from June meeting: To request that the Council purchase a number of bags to be used:

- for Sustainable Neighbourhood volunteers to take samples to local pet suppliers to suggest that they start stocking them;
- and to be used as giveaways or educational resources.

Rachelle to approach relevant Council staff to investigate possibilities. On hold pending feedback from Hunter water about 'soluble / flushable' bags.

4.2.2 Action from April meeting: Regarding inclusion of accessibility requirements on Alliance risk assessment forms.

Waiting for feedback from Council staff. Council are currently reviewing and updating their own Accessibility Guidelines, so we will wait until that is complete before proceeding. This will ensure we can be consistent with Council's updated guidelines.

5 Correspondence

- Received 200 stickers (free of charge) from Tangaroa Blue to use for the fishing litter campaign

- Confirmation from the Community Building Partnership Program that they have reviewed and signed off on the completion report for the Brighton Ave Footpath project.
- Sustainable Neighbourhood News, 27 July
- Email to Chris Harle, confirming two Alliance representatives to attend the Hunter Disaster Recovery Reference Group.
- Grant application submitted to 2017 Community Building Partnership for an outdoor seating area at the Holmesville Community Garden (West Wallsend District SNG)
- Stallholder application form submitted for the 2017 Living Smart Festival
- Invitation for the Alliance to hold an information stall at Council's screening of Maratus.

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

Moved: Steve. Seconded: Jean. Carried.

6 Treasurers report

6.1 Treasurer's report for July 2017

See report attached, below.

MOTION: That the Treasurers Report is accepted.

7 For discussion & decision

7.1 Living Smart Festival

Seeking a main contact for the day (to liaise with Council if required). Rachelle and Steve will be away. Dot volunteered to be the main contact, and to help organise gear.

Have booked a stall for the Alliance. Suggest focus on plastic pollution, encouraging people to BYO reusable bags, and promoting upcoming SN activities and projects.

Volunteers from Warners Bay Area SNG also had an idea to set up a 'cup washing station' for people to wash their reusable coffee cups at the festival. It could potentially involve:

- being located close to coffee vendors
- purchasing some suitable reusable coffee cups (eg mugs from an op shop or other)
- cooperation with coffee vendors regarding size or types of cups
- adherence to food safety guidelines regarding temperature of washing water etc
- access to power (ie for an urn)
- suggest that this stall would be separate, but next to the Alliance's education stall

Rachelle has discussed the idea with Council's events staff, and has so far received a positive response. Council staff are currently negotiating with coffee sellers to determine if they would be keen to participate, and if there are any criteria required (eg size or types of cups that would be acceptable).

Proposed ACTION: Rachelle to go ahead and seek Sustainable Neighbourhood volunteers for the education stall / and cup washing station.

ACTION: Rachelle also to see if Council can promote for punters to BYO cup to the festival.

7.2 Plastic bags

- **Supermarket ban.** Considering the announcement from big supermarkets about removal of free plastic bags. Some discussion about how can we encourage and maximise the number of people bringing their own, and more widespread rejection of plastic bags (eg other supermarkets, retailers, fast food etc). Bag swap stations and other education will assist with the transition.
- **Bag Swap Stations.** Media release has been drafted. Robyn, Steve and Rachelle visited the Blackalls Park Friendly Grocer to deliver a new box and signage, and take some photos.

<http://www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/bag-swap-stations.html>

Expect Redhead will be ready by early September, so will hold off on the media release until then.

ACTION: Encourage other groups to do the same, using the same branding / posters. Rachelle can provide group-specific posters.

Gabrielle reported that the WBASNG are considering working with the Womens Shed on the Lake to sew 'Borrowing Bags' – they could be donated to the Bag Swap Stations.

7.3 AGM date

Confirmed Alliance AGM to be held at the normal November board meeting, Tuesday 21 November, 6-8pm.

And then in addition, hold a network end of year celebration on a weekend in November. (Prefer not the 5th November.)

ACTION: Rachelle to notify membership about AGM date; and to select a suitable date in November for a celebration event.

Suggestion to include 'Building community spirit' as a theme for the celebration event (eg discussion of ways that SN can help Lake Mac be more inclusive . Along the lines of the recent Toronto friendship festival).

7.4 Alliance stall at Maratus screening, Thursday 7 September

Council will be screening the documentary Maratus on Thursday 7 September, at Event Cinema Glendale (watch the trailer). The star of the film, Stuart Harris, will be introducing the film and participating in a Q&A session afterward. Free tickets available here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/maratus-a-documystery-m-introduced-by-stuart-harris-tickets-36565288763>

The Alliance has been invited to have a stall there. A table will be provided by Event Cinema for your use. Displays must be set up by 5.30pm and available for viewing after the screening and Q&A until 7.45pm.

Steve, Jean and Dot are available to set up and man the stall, and Gabrielle is available after 6pm. Steve is available to collect equipment if required.

ACTION: Rachelle to confirm stall and tickets for 3 volunteers.

7.5 Dog management – Request to Council for citywide statistics

Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood has submitted a letter to Council in July to highlight concerning dog attack and other statistics drawn from Council's Annual Reports. They requested clarification about the statistics, and a review of current strategies to address the issues.

Detailed statistics and the letter from the Redhead SNG were circulated via email, and supported by the Alliance Board at the July meeting.

The response from Council was received on 21 July, and circulated to board members via email. The Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood August meeting considered the response and found it unsatisfactory and incomplete in many respects and disturbing that sought after statistics are supposedly not kept by Council or cannot be extracted.

The Redhead SNG would like to propose to the Alliance that additional responses to the submission be sought on a City wide basis by the Alliance.

ACTION: The Board support the proposal and are happy to seek additional responses from Council from a citywide perspective. Request Colin to draft a letter on the Board's behalf

8 Requests from member groups

8.1 Winter Nature Play Adventure – Warners Bay Area SNG

Risk assessment circulated and approved via email, including clarification of activities, addition of sharps procedure and include risks from biting insects.

8.2 Holmesville Community Garden – Outdoor seating area – West Wallsend District SNG

Grant application circulated and approved via email. The application has been submitted to the Community Building Partnership program. Successful grants will be announced in December.

8.3 CALM'D Art Competition

The Caves Beach – Swansea Area SNG are planning a school art competition. The competition is for students to create artworks made from marine debris collected from the local environment.

They have already made some good connections with local schools, artists and venues. They are now looking for sponsorship for prizes, and additional funding for signage. They have received a prize offer from OCCI so far, for a \$150 prize pack and tailored lesson for the winning class.

Competition is scheduled to open 8 September, with an exhibition at the Swansea Centre from 20-23 October. Selected artworks will also be exhibited at the Finite Art Gallery (Caves Beach) and Swansea Library from 23-30 October.

More information here: <http://www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/school-art-competition.html>

Risk assessment and competition details circulated via email this afternoon. Board members will review via email.

9 Report backs from member groups and projects

9.1 Dog management brochure

Printing is complete, and brochures have gone to LT Creek (1800), Redhead (1500), and Toronto Area (1500), ready for distribution.

There are 600 remaining for Dudley, and 800 spare for general distribution.

9.2 Foreshore and fishing litter

Steve has been distributing litter education materials to Lake Mac fishing retailers. BCF (Glendale) were very supportive. They also avoid giving out plastic bags. Fishing shop at Pelican were also very supportive. Some suggested that perhaps a lot of the rubbish is coming from visitors to Lake Mac.

Regarding drain stencilling – Steve received a response from Council staff, that once the weather stays warmer, they can work with a small group of volunteers on identifying, and stencilling, priority drains in an area of concern.

Colin put the following recommendations to the August Coastal Zone Management Committee Meeting.

Fishing rubbish in lake and ocean

Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance would like to propose that agencies concerned with the environmental management of the lake and ocean waters conduct a review of the current facilities, infrastructure and activities to prevent pollution from litter and waste, especially fishing waste.

The Alliance recommends:

- *an education campaign to decrease the level of fishing debris, lines, bait bags and generic litter ending up in the lake and ocean, and lake and ocean foreshores.*
- *recognising that the main issue is generic litter coming through the stormwater system and that much is already being done, that an opportunity for better coordination and collaboration between responsible agencies can be initiated.*
- *that it will prove valuable to target anglers and boat users, through bait and fishing shops and clubs, as part of an overall litter campaign.*

- a review of fishing waste disposal facilities and locations be undertaken to remedy deficiencies.
- That appropriate support be given to increasing drain stencilling in order to increase awareness and compliance.
- supporting further research and actions in regard to the prevention of pollution by micro plastics.

9.3 Risk Management Study and Plans LT Creek – report back from Coastal Zone Management Committee Meeting

Questions put to the committee were circulated via email.

A tour of Centennial Coal being organised to provide some better understanding of their water / dam / catchment processes.

9.4 Plastic manufacturers and packaging associations

Suggestion that it would be useful to approach / research plastic manufacturers / packaging associations to determine how plastic packaging and pollution could be addressed from the manufacturer's perspective.

Robyn has sent an enquiry to the Australian Packaging Covenant, asking if Coles is a member. Coles has stated this on their website - <https://www.coles.com.au/corporate-responsibility/environment/waste>. Woolworths is a signatory. No response yet.

9.5 Coffee Cups - Warners Bay Area SNG

Samantha and Gabrielle met with Rachelle to discuss their coffee cup idea.

Discussed ideas about how to share the cost of the cup purchase, while making it easy for cafes and customers. Possibility for cafes to 'buy in' to the initiative to purchase the cups in the first place, and then for them to make their money back selling the cups. WBASNG could provide marketing and bulk purchase coordination, branding etc.

Agreed that it needed some more consideration before submitting a grant application. Definitely need to discuss with café owners to see what is possible or would encourage their participation. In the mean time, WBASNG could purchase a small number of keep cups to sell at their market stalls.

Also noted that WBASNG hold very successful monthly coffee catch ups. They are informal get togethers at a different local café each month, held 2 weeks after their formal monthly meetings.

9.6 Cardiff Area – Cycle / Walkways Forum – 20 July

Well attended, and good presentations from Newcastle Cycleways and following discussion. Pleased to have attendance from Council staff to answer questions and clarify expectations.

<http://www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/cardiff-cycleway-forum.html>

9.7 Greater Charlestown – Eco Angel Clean Up – 30 July

Successful clean up event, with lots of rubbish collected from local bushland. Some photos here:

<http://www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/whitebridge-clean-up.html>

9.8 Warners Bay – Winter Nature Play Adventure, 6 August

"What a wonderful day playing with families in the dunes and exploring the elements of fire. Small contained fires for children and their families to get to know the properties of fire. I would estimate 100% engagement! Of course marshmallows, popcorn and chocolate were much enjoyed after the physical exertion running up and down the dunes!" Niki Buchan from Niki Buchan Natural Learning.

"Perfect weather for a perfect day!" "Thanks for another fantastic nature play" were some of the many wonderful compliments about our Nature Play Adventure - Winter event. Just over 30 children joined us to explore Belmont Wetlands State Park's sand dunes and the elements of fire. We had four excited

volunteers and the awesome Helen from Belmont Wetlands State Park to create a comfortable welcoming atmosphere for families to enjoy.

We had six people sign up to the email list and three new members.

We made \$435.00, as we managed to get sponsors for all costs.

Project Leader

Gabrielle Clappison

<http://www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/winter-nature-play.html>

9.9 Festival of Friendship – Toronto Library

Went very well. Wreath making activity was a great ice-breaker; and conversation café included prompts to start conversations about participants (eg Do you have a dog?); open discussion about 'the Australian way of life'. And laughter yoga was very successful. Friendships have formed, and planning for future events eg community picnic at the foreshore 27 October (tbc). Hoping to have regular events in future (eg every 12 weeks).

9.10 LT Creek Update

Coordinating collections for the Pamper care project. Items are being collected at Woodrising Neighbourhood Centre, and then distributed by them to local homeless and disadvantaged people. Will approach Centennial / Origin etc for funding for other programs (eg free hair cuts / training for people in need). Donations drive coming on 31 October.

LT Creek SNG have started a Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/LTCREEKSNG>

9.11 Disaster Preparedness regional reference group – Request for Sustainable Neighbourhood representative.

Jean and Gavin volunteered to represent the Sustainable Neighbourhoods network on a Regional Reference Group to focus on disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

Both attending first meeting, and will decide from there the most suitable arrangement for future meetings.

9.12 Redhead Community Newsletter, August edition

Has been delayed by about a week and hopefully will be distributed before 25 August 2017 along with 1500 Dog brochures.

9.13 Cardiff RRR Car Boot Sale – 13 August

Our recycled, reused, repurposed, renewed, or repaired Car Boot Sale was a resounding success.

All stalls were fully booked, and 300 to 400 willing customers visited on the day.

After their popular appearance last year, students from Cardiff High once again kicked up a musical storm.

The CASNG stall was busy giving out free Boomerang Bag making kits and free vegetable seeds thanks to LMCC. No plastic shopping bags were in sight, thanks to the shopping bags also provided free by LMCC.

The Salvos sausage sizzle, and a coffee van were also kept busy.

Lake Macquarie SES was there with some timely hints about preparing for floods and storms, and took pride in showing off their brand new truck.

To top it all off - the weather was perfect!

9.14 Pit Pony Park Planting Party, 13 August

Successful day with lots of participation (about 200??). There are some great photos here: <https://www.facebook.com/greatercharlestownsng>. Mayor Kay Fraser, Pat Conroy MP, and Cr Langford attended as well.

9.15 Enquiry to Hunter Water Community Consultative Forum

Colin has come across this website promoting “flushable, soluble” dog poo bags, www.flushablepoopbags.com.au. They may be a better alternative to promote to dog owners than plastic bags, but we are unsure about regulations regarding disposal of dog faeces through the sewerage system.

Following an enquiry to Hunter water, they have confirmed that the bags are not suitable to be flushed. Interestingly, the manufacturer has since changed their name to reflect this. There is a recent media report about the issue: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-08-09/soluble-dog-poo-bags-prove-a-flushinghazard/8776184>

10 Meeting close.

Meeting close: 7.45pm

Next meeting date: 19 September 2017, 6-8pm

Steve apology for September and October meetings.

Request from Council staff to attend, up to 20min, to talk about Lake Mac 2050

Treasurer's Report:



LAKE MACQUARIE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS ALLIANCE
GENERAL MEETING
TREASURER'S REPORT
1 July to 31 July 2017.

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

Balance **\$ 20,673.30CR**

RECEIPTS

Bank Interest 2.37

Total Receipts \$20,675.67

EXPENDITURE

Chq. 000071 Lee McElroy \$ 318.00

Chq. 000072 Rathmines SNG 500.00

Chq. 000073 Coates Hire (Traxcavator) 250.00

Chq. 000074 Andreasens Green W'sale Nursery 1,589.50

Total Expenditure \$ 2,657.50

BALANCE **\$ 18,018.17CR**

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

Signed _____

Name Jean McGarry

Title Hon Treasurer

Date 14 August, 2017.