

Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance

Ordinary Meeting

MINUTES

Tuesday 20 February 2018, 6.00 - 8.00pm

Council Administration Building, Speers Point



Present:	Robyn Charlton, Gabrielle Clappison, Steve Dewar, Jean McGarry, Colin Mondy Gavin Ord Rachelle McConville (LMCC)
Apologies:	Dot Seiffert, Avril Lockton

1 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 Conflict of interest

None stated.

3 Previous meeting

3.1 Ordinary meeting minutes, 19 December 2017

Note amendment regarding Colin's comments about 'Lake Mac' name.

MOTION: That the previous meeting minutes dated 19 December 2017, be confirmed as an accurate record.

Moved: Gab. Seconded: Steve. Carried

3.2 Business arising from the minutes

Outstanding actions from previous meetings:

3.2.1 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.

Note that in the meantime, we can start to include accessibility information when promoting our events. Greater Charlestown has done this for their upcoming history talk, and is a good example of promoting information about accessibility for a particular venue:

<http://www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/community-history.html>.

ACTION: In the mean time, Rachelle to update the SN risk assessment form to include a prompt to consider accessibility options for SN events.

4 Correspondence

- Formal notification of successful Community Building Partnership Grant – West Wallsend District Sustainable Neighbourhood Group – Covered seating area for Holmesville Community Garden

- Agreement with Guild to set up monthly payments as automatic transfers. Updated certificate of currency received from Guild.
- Notification from Council of successful 'Launchpad / SEEN exhibition Space' application for a 'Waste as Art' project.
- Sustainable Neighbourhood News, 20 December, and February edition
- Request from grocery store in WA to set up a bag swap station
- Thank you from the Pelican Area Sustainable Neighbourhood Group for the loan for their BBQ.
- Confirmation from Council that the Greater Charlestown Sustainable Neighbourhood Group's grant for planting in Pit Pony Park has been acquitted.

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

Moved: Steve. Seconded: Jean. Carried

5 Treasurers report

5.1 Treasurer's report for December 2017 and January 2018

See attached below.

MOTION: That the Treasurers Report is accepted.

Moved Jean. Seconded: Steve. Carried.

6 For discussion & decision

6.1 Sponsorship

Need to report back to Umwelt, and discuss future opportunities with them. Original payment was in May 2016.

Note that we couldn't have lent funds to Pelican for their BBQ, without Umwelt's funding.

ACTION: Rachele to prepare a report back to present for Umwelt. Liaise with Colin to arrange a meeting with them.

6.2 2018 Insurance

In December we decided to renew with Guild and are now paying on a monthly basis. This current policy excludes volunteers over 75 years from the 'Volunteer Accident'. Note that the age limit only applies to the Volunteer Accident cover. Public Liability cover remains relevant to all volunteers regardless of age.

Need to seek alternative policy that includes volunteers of all ages, and has more affordable excess.

ACTION: Rachele to research alternate policies to present to March meeting.

7 Requests from member groups

7.1 Support for request regarding Council's S94 Contributions Plans – Greater Charlestown SNG

Greater Charlestown SNG is seeking the Alliance's support to request information from Council about the Section 94 Development Contributions Plans. There is some information here:

<https://www.lakemac.com.au/development/plan/section-94-contributions>, including copies of existing plans.

The S94 plans identify public services and amenities that are needed to meet the demand of development, and list for example, local road upgrades, open space and recreation facilities such as playgrounds, community gardens and sports fields.

The GCSNG are seeking advice from Council about:

- How are S94 actions prioritised? Can the community have input into prioritising?

- How and when does S94 funding become available for the facilities listed in the plans? What is the process?
- How do the funds relate to where the development occurs?

It is likely that other SN groups (and other groups in the community) would benefit from this information as well. The GCSNG would like the Alliance to send a letter to Council, requesting a meeting or similar with Council staff, with the purpose of explaining how S94 contributions work and what the process is for Council to spend the funds / act on the plans.

RESOLUTION: Alliance Board supports the GCSNG request

ACTON: Rachele to draft letter to be sent on Alliance's behalf.

Moved: Steve. Seconded: Jean. Carried.

7.2 Plastic bag booths

Steve is organising plastic bag booths for the week of 23-29 of March in Toronto, Glendale, Belmont, Morisset and Charlestown. Possibly Warner's Bay and Edgeworth too? Upcycle will probably do 2 of these - Charlestown and another.

Upcycle will bring their sewing machines with them to demonstrate how to make your own bag from a t-shirt.

Dates:

- Thursday 22 March, 3-6pm - Toronto Town Square
- Saturday 24 March, 9am-12pm - Glendale Stockland Mall (probably with Upcycle)
- Tuesday 27 March, 3-6pm - Belmont Citi Centre
- Wednesday 28 March, 3-6pm - Morisset Square
- Thursday 29 March, 3-6pm - Charlestown Square (with Upcycle)

Risk assessment coming.

Will seek volunteers once dates are confirmed.

7.3 Cardiff Picnic in the Park

Cardiff Area SNG are planning a similar event to the one in Toronto – to coincide with Earth Hour / Harmony Day and Neighbour day, 24 March, 4.30-7.30pm.

Risk assessment circulated via email. Approved.

7.4 Redhead Earth Hour picnic

6.30 at Webb Park – mainly for Redhead SN members. Also on 24 March

8 Report backs from member groups and projects

8.1 Disaster Resilience Reference Group

Disaster preparedness is mentioned in most SN groups' SNAPS. Communities are expected to undertake a certain level of their own preparations for disaster.

Lots (and lots!) of different agencies involved in disaster management, but the important stakeholders are the public / community / the people on the ground when the disaster happens

Micro-community assets (eg networks like Sustainable Neighbourhoods) become important to help communicate among the community, and utilise our existing networks.

In terms of preparedness - Can help for example by running community events (eg education about how to prepare for a storm) – Red Cross staff can run.

In terms of response – ie after a disaster has happened. – gets more complicated. Eg would be nice to provide a community BBQ or something after a disaster has happened. But is difficult to manage the risks, and for agencies to condone. (eg don't really want people out and about after a disaster).

RESOLUTION: General willingness from the Alliance board and to seek more information about how Sustainable Neighbourhoods could be involved or support.

ACTION: Gavin to liaise between reference group and Alliance board.

8.2 Hunter Water Customer and Community Advisory Committee

(Note the committee's name change.)

October meeting was mainly taken up with a tour of different facilities.

Next meeting postponed to March. Seeking more community members for the Committee, and input about how Hunter Water responds to questions etc.

Questions for Jean to take include:

- What are long term plans for water security / pricing / desalination plants?
- Any plans for covered water storage?
- Education / campaign to encourage households to retrofit / install water tanks?
- Also seek information about flooding issues in Winding Creek (from Council – Symon Walpole; and HWCCAC)

ACTION: Jean to circulate Committee's new charter from October meeting.

8.3 Repair cafe

Progress / report back on the repair café / upcycle festival idea? (Gab / Steve)

Note Upcycle Newcastle's Monthly Makery, 2nd Saturday of the month at Silverridge Community Centre, 13 Iranda Grove, Wallsend.

Toronto Mens Shed, Boolaroo Womens Shed, Wangi Mens Shed interested. Cardiff Area also interested. John Shiel could be a good contact – he mentioned that he is involved in one on the central coast.

Interested SN volunteers are meeting next week to progress discussions.

Also 'Share Shop' group starting in Newcastle: A local group are setting up 'The Share Shop', to offer members access to infrequently used items, like a sewing machine, food dehydrator or tools. They are looking to set up a permanent shop front.

For now, they are seeking donations of useful items.

Find out more in this [Newcastle Star article](#), or on their [Facebook page](#).

8.4 Lake Macquarie Business Chamber

Report back - Jean to contact Lake Mac Business Chamber and sign the Alliance up as a member (no cost option for now).

ACTION: Rachelle to sign up with generic SN Alliance details.

8.5 Dog management

Have not yet received a response back from Council regarding the Alliance's letter sent in November. Council staff have apologised for the delay. Their Manager suffered a serious illness in December, so the response was delayed. We are expecting a response soon.

Redhead SN is planning a media release.

Also note recent media articles:

<http://www.theherald.com.au/story/5219858/recalcitrant-dog-owners-and-another-fine-mess/>

<http://www.theherald.com.au/story/5220889/attacks-on-people-make-lake-macquarie-top-dog/>

Also note that final report for the grant project 'Responsible Dog Care Brochure' is overdue.

ACTION: Rachelle and Colin to complete.

8.6 Coffee catch ups

Warners Bay Area SNG have been holding monthly coffee catch ups throughout 2017 (on the alternate fortnight to their meeting). They have been very successful as a nice, informal way for group members to socialise, and to discuss their ideas. West Wallsend SNG have started holding informal catch ups as well. Also a great way to support local businesses.

Also informal dinner following Redhead meeting.

8.7 Pamper Care project

December was a busy month for the staff at Woodrising Neighbourhood Centre, helping those in need. Three UltraTune Toronto Masculine Wellbeing kits went out and at least two Pamper Care bags went out.

While January is part of the Festive Season, Pamper Care was still working behind the scenes.

- We were blessed to receive donations of product which went not only to Woodrising Neighbourhood Centre but Nova Women and Children Refuge.
- We have formed a partnership with Simply Pharmacy- Toronto.
- The Hair Care Program is moving forward with the help of Origin Energy - Eraring.
- The best news is that Pamper Care helped SEVEN people in need.
- Four ladies with a Pamper Care Bag
- A teenage girl with a Pamper Care Bag and two gentlemen with Masculine Wellbeing Kit (Thanks UltraTune - Toronto)

8.8 LT Creek update

Clean Up Australia day site has been registered. (Lake St, Fassifern)

Suggestion to expand the group to include Bolton Point, Marmong Point, Woodrising, Booragul and Teralba, as well as Blackalls Park, Fassifern and Fennell Bay. Possible new name could be Five Bays Sustainable Neighbourhood Group.

Council have considered the request and are offering assistance to:

- Develop a new logo and footer
- Liaise with other Council departments to inform them of the change.
- Retain the current LT Creek (and Woodrising?) SNAPs and Terms of Reference to guide the group's actions.
- Complete a mail out to all households in the new area, with the SN survey and invitation to participate. Aim to send out in ~May, and complete data entry / reporting by ~July.
- Help organise an event in spring time as a welcome to the 'new' group, and opportunity to meet face to face.
- Attend 1 or 2 of the first group meetings to help set the tone and sort out any teething problems.

8.9 Rathmines Park project

Bins have now been installed. Still waiting for signage.

Now planning for Clean Up event and school engagement.

8.10 Waste as Art project

Application was submitted to Council to express the Alliance's interest in displaying 'Waste as Art' artworks in available library spaces.

We have been offered a space to exhibit at the SEEN@ Swansea exhibition space, for 13 October – 25 November 2018. (Slightly different space and timing to our 'Launchpad' application, but I think this space will suit a 'Waste as Art' competition better.

Meeting planned for Thursday 22 February, 9-10am, to discuss

- Confirming volunteer interest in participating and helping coordinate a citywide 'waste as art' competition
- Key terms and conditions
- Key dates
- Key roles

Intend to invite all SN groups to participate, once these basic guidelines are confirmed.

8.11 Meeting with Beyond Zero Emissions

Jean, Colin and Rachelle provided a report back from the meeting with BZE CEO, BZE volunteers, and Council staff.

ACTION: Rachelle to circulate meeting notes.

RESOLUTION: Support in principle some further interaction with BZE and to find out more about the potential workshops.

8.12 Cities Power Partnership

<http://citiespowerpartnership.org.au/>

The Cities Power Partnership is a free national program that exists to celebrate and accelerate the emission reduction and clean energy successes of Australian towns and cities. It's a coalition of the willing – made up of Mayors, councillors and communities who are committed to a sustainable, non-polluting energy future.

Local councils who join the partnership pledge to take 5 key actions across renewable energy, efficiency, transport and working together. There are dozens of actions: whether it's putting solar on the local library, switching to electric buses, or opening up old landfills for new solar farms.

Surprising that Lake Macquarie Council is not already signed up.

ACTION: Rachelle to draft a letter to Council on behalf of the Alliance to request participation from our LGA.

8.13 Rathmines stall at 'Music in the Park'

While the festival itself was not particularly busy, but the Rathmines Area SNG got to talk with lots of people, and signed up several new contacts and members.

They also created a display with information about the group, and native bees. They made their own display board out of 2 upright posts, with 'Wonder wall' (fabric?) that can slide over the top. It is easily dismantled for storage and transportation.

9 For Information

9.1 Toronto Picnic in the Park

Friday 23 February, 5.30-7.30pm at Toronto Foreshore

Similar to successful event in November. Being managed by Council, and the Toronto Friendship Committee.

9.2 Strategy and Business Plan development

No progress to report.

9.3 Environmental Sustainability Grants

Don't know of any SNG applications for this round as yet.

Applications close Monday 12 March, lakemac.com.au.

9.4 Earth Hour, Neighbour Day and Harmony Day - all on the same weekend, 24 and 25 March.

9.5 Social equity and sustainability

Robyn has published a paper titled, 'Sustainable cities, sustainable living? Not unless we put social equity back on the table.' She is seeking feedback on the article and requesting discussion at the March meeting.

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/sustainable-cities-living-unless-we-put-social-equity-robyn-charlton/>

9.6 Street trees

Especially regarding expected impacts from climate change, need to consider importance of street trees. Eg Landcare / SN trees seminar last year.

10 Meeting close.

Meeting close: 8.30pm

Next meeting date: Tuesday 20 March

Treasurer's Report

LAKE MACQUARIE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS ALLIANCE

GENERAL MEETING

TREASURER'S REPORT

1 December, 2017 to 31 January, 2018.



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

Balance **\$ 11,511.46CR**
2017

RECEIPTS

06 December 2017 DirCr032106/LMCC 1016194 \$ 1,855.59

Total Income \$ 1,855.59

EXPENDITURE

06 Dec 2017 Chq. 000085 Gos.Quarries/Grtr Ch'tn \$ 2,475.00
19 Dec,2017 Chq. 000086 J McGarry* 300.00

Total Expenditure \$ 2,775.00

BALANCE **\$ 10,592.05CR**

Balance variation
*Chq 000086 not presented

2018 Income

15 Jan 2018 Dir Cr. 000437 Pelican Area SNG \$ 300.00

Total income **\$ 300.00**

Expenditure

09 Jan 2018 Dir.Debit 063457 Guild Insurance \$ 154.64
24 Jan 2018 Chq 000087 Andreasans Green/Grtr Ch'tn \$ 176.00

Total Expenditure

\$ 330.64*

BALANCE

\$ 10,861.41CR*

Balance variation

*Chq 000086 not presented