

# Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance

## Ordinary Meeting

### MINUTES

Tuesday 19 July 2016, 6.00 - 8.00pm

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



<b>Present:</b>	Robyn Charlton, Indra Deamer, Steve Dewar (arrived 6.30pm), Norbert Lica, Avril Lockton, Jean McGarry, Colin Mondy, Dot Seiffert Rachelle McConville (LMCC) Jess Murray (Student at LMCC)
<b>Apologies:</b>	

## 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 reported.

## 3 Conflict of interest

None reported.

## 4 Previous meeting

### 4.1 Ordinary meeting minutes, 21 June 2016 as tabled

MOTION: *That the previous meeting minutes dated 21 June 2016, be confirmed as an accurate record.*

Moved: Norbert; Seconded: Jean; Carried.

### 4.2 Business arising from the minutes

#### Dog management

- Rachelle confirmed that Council is able to donate 500 'pooch pouches' to the Alliance to use as giveaways as part of this project. (A 'pooch pouch' is a little pouch to attach to a dog's lead, that can carry bags to pick up their poo – so that dog owners always have a bag with them.) (Pricing depends on the number of pouches, but up to ~\$3.50 each. Probably no need to purchase any, considering that Council can donate them.)
- Steve reported that Edinburgh Council has designated dog poo bins, but there are sometimes problems with bins overflowing and smelly if not collected regularly. They also give away scoopers with bags, but unsure of the type of bags used.  
Steve also did some research about 'poo-scoopers' – a plastic claw / handle to help people pick it up and avoid any direct contact with poo. They are cheap (<\$10), and some come with biodegradable plastic bags.  
Another version uses a piece of cardboard with a metal frame and plastic bag.
- There's also an app available for First Aid for Pets:

<https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/first-aid-for-pets/id799460675?mt=8>

PROPOSAL: *Suggestion to purchase some 'poo-scoopers' to use as demonstration at the Living Smart Festival stall.*

Recommended scoopers to purchase - 2 that can be attached to a belt or hand and easy to carry. They both open up like hand claws and bag inside (so hands don't touch the poo), and should be quite cheap. Maybe, they are available in Australia??

- <https://www.poopup.com/>
- [Search on Amazon](#)

Available in Australia

- <http://www.mypetwarehouse.com.au/dog-clean-up-odours/scoops-waste-bags>
- <http://www.vetnpetdirect.com.au/houndhouse-handiscoop-pooper-scooper#.V4WZqKlpVmg>
- <http://www.petshopdirect.com.au/shop/item/earth-rated-poop-bags-120-unscented-waste-bags-8-rolls>

RESOLUTION: *Approval to go ahead and purchase 2 poo scoopers to trial and demonstrate at the LSF, and to use to gauge people's reactions and likelihood of uptake.*

- Steve also reported back about producing energy from methane, which is done in a number of places around the world.
- From Rachelle - Council currently captures methane produced from the Awaba landfill, which contributes a small amount to energy production. Council's plans for the new green waste system are for it to be an aerobic system, so that it won't produce any significant amounts of methane. Faeces will not be collected in the new green waste system to prevent a variety of health risks.

## 5 Correspondence

- Submission of final grant report for the West Wallsend District SNG's Illegal Dumping grant – Submitted to Council Grant Officer.
- Invitation to Sustainable Neighbourhood membership – Health and Safety Training
- Notification from Council that the Alliance stall application to the Living Smart Festival was successful.
- Submission of additional questions for the Alliance as finalist for the KABNSW Blue Star Awards.
- Invitation to Blue Star Awards event, Wed 31 August, Concord.
- Hard copy of 'Capacity Through Collaboration, A toolkit', a resource developed by Linkwest (a community organisation in WA). The Alliance is featured as an example of Community Hub / Umbrella Organisation.
- Letter of support from Council officer Marc Desmond for variation to Toronto Area SNG's 'Brighton Ave Footpath' project. Subsequently submitted to Community Building Partnership grant.
- Approval received from Community Building Partnership for grant variation as above.

## 6 Treasurers report

### 6.1 Treasurer's report for June 2016

See report attached, below.

MOTION: *That the Treasurers Report is accepted.*

Moved: Jean; Seconded: Indra; Carried.

## 7 For discussion & decision

### 7.1 Review of meeting procedures

It is timely to review the purpose and procedures for Alliance Board meetings. A proposal has been circulated via email.

MOTION: *That the Alliance Board agree to adhere to the revised meeting procedures.*

Moved: Colin; Seconded: Jean; Carried.

### 7.2 Plastic Bag Campaign – Update and further promotion

Existing campaign strategy is here:

[www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/uploads/6/7/0/6/6706950/proposal\\_and\\_background\\_paper.pdf](http://www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/uploads/6/7/0/6/6706950/proposal_and_background_paper.pdf)

Actions to date include:

- Tossers can be binners, stages 1 & 2 (Toronto Area SNG)
- Identification of Plastic Bag Free Champions in Toronto, [www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/champions](http://www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/champions)
- Focus on petition to ban plastic bags, and litter / plastic education at SN promotional events eg Living Smart Festival, May Movie Month, Seniors expo, Swansea Fair, Eco Angel Clean Ups etc
- Reusable Bag Making Workshop, Jun16 (Redhead SNG)
- Plans to further engage with local businesses in Redhead to support them to become plastic bag free
- 600 petition signatures so far (hard copy).

Living Smart Festival, Sep 15	166
Smart Cities Conference, Oct 15	141
Dora Creek Celebration, Dec 15	13
Seniors Expo Edgeworth, Dec 15	9
Toronto Spring Fair, Oct 15	196
May Movie Month, May 16	75
<b>Total so far</b>	<b>600</b>

- The online version of the petition has 972 'emails sent', of this: [www.plasticbagfreensw.good.do/take-nsw-plastic-bag-free/contact-the-premier](http://www.plasticbagfreensw.good.do/take-nsw-plastic-bag-free/contact-the-premier)). This version is set up as an email to the Premier, and was originally intended to lobby the Premier prior to the March 2015 NSW election.

**OUTSTANDING ACTION:** How can we maximise the petition by linking up with the main NSW Campaign? Rachele to contact Plastic Bag Free Alliance.

How can we use publicity about the petition, Champion Businesses/Responsible Cafes, role of the supermarkets/fast food outlets, other plastic pollution-plastic bottles, coffee cups, straws, caps, cotton buds, L and P plates, etc. in the lead-up to the Living Smart festival?

PROPOSAL:

- *That the Alliance will seek publicity (newspaper, TV, radio) for the petition and the Champion Businesses, and Responsible Cafes during the lead-up to the Living Smart Festival. Highlighting that there is a campaign to ban plastic bags in NSW, and to encourage further support.*
- *At the Living Smart Festival the Alliance stall will focus on a display of some collected plastic rubbish that is present on our beaches and around the lake.*

Moved: Steve. Seconded: Jean. Carried.

**ACTION:** Steve to draft a media release for approval by board.

**ACTION:** Colin to enquire with Ocean Pod display to see if they are interested in attending the LSF – in conjunction with us?

**ACTION –** Rachele to enquire whether OCCI are holding their own display of marine debris and if not, can we borrow it?

### **7.3 Review of Sustainable Neighbourhoods**

As discussed at the March Alliance meeting, Council staff have been progressing plans for a review of the Sustainable Neighbourhoods program. A draft engagement strategy and schedule has been circulated via email.

Of particular relevance is the request that board members are directly involved in the process and engage directly with the network of local groups. For example, the proposal involves Council staff attending each of the local group meetings between Aug - Oct. It is desirable that at least one board member (not from that local group) attend as well, to give the network an opportunity to meet board members and discuss the future of the organisation.

*PROPOSAL: Council staff are seeking endorsement and support from the Alliance for the implementation of this plan. In particular, seeking board member assistance to engage with all local SNG membership.*

**RESOLUTION:** Endorsement to go ahead with the plan, and enthusiasm for board members to participate.

Additional suggestion to ensure that contacts from inactive groups are included as much as possible.

## **8 Requests from member groups**

### **8.1 Cardiff Area SNG – Car Boot Sale, 14 August**

Risk assessment circulated via email.

Approved.

### **8.2 LT Creek SNG – Grant application – Canon Oceania grants – Awaba Conservation Area project, due 8 August**

Draft grant application circulated via email.

Approved.

## **9 Report backs from member groups**

### **9.1 Caves Beach – Swansea Area SNG – Marine Debris Clean Up, 3 July**

The clean up was held on 3 July (3<sup>rd</sup> attempt due to terrible weather on the first 2 tries). 22 people attended, and they picked up 39.5kg of rubbish. Some great photos at [www.facebook.com/Caves.Beach.Swansea.Area](http://www.facebook.com/Caves.Beach.Swansea.Area).

### **9.2 Cardiff Area SNG – Bunnings Sausage Sizzle fundraiser, Sunday 26 June**

The sausage sizzle was very busy and hard work for volunteers (10 volunteers contributed a total of 51) hours, but was successful as a fundraising activity, raising over \$1000. The additional benefit was that they had contact with about 600 people buying sausages who now know about the Cardiff Area SNG.

### **9.3 LT Creek SNG – Awaba State Conservation Area Campaign update**

- The first children's story about the area has been drafted by Evelyn who is 10. Glinda has been seen in Canberra.
- The Petition ([www.change.org/p/nsw-department-of-planning-and-environment-nsw-government-office-of-environment-and-heritage-the-nsw-government-to-acknowledge-gazette-the-proposed-awaba-conservation-area](http://www.change.org/p/nsw-department-of-planning-and-environment-nsw-government-office-of-environment-and-heritage-the-nsw-government-to-acknowledge-gazette-the-proposed-awaba-conservation-area)) has reached 715 signatures. Need 285 more to reach the target.
- Wildlife Rescue (NATF) have written an article about Awaba SCA (p) in their latest newsletter.
- Origin Energy – Eraring and Centennial Coal – Newstan have been introduced to Glinda.
- The Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance and Coal Point Progress Association have endorsed LT Creek SNG's work on Awaba SCA (P). Cooranbong and the CEN have added their endorsement. Waiting to hear from new Chair Wangi. Logos of Community Groups, and NGO's are on the website. <https://conservewestlakes.wordpress.com/awaba-conservation-area/supporters-of-awaba-sca>.
- Gates are in place at the Hawkemount Rd and Freemans Drive intersection. This has been a joint venture between Centennial Coal and LMCC. This is to assist in the prevention of illegal dumping and dumped cars.
- Negotiations between Centennial Coal and Crown Lands are still on the table in regards to the illegal dumping issue and land ownership.
- Greg Piper talks about Awaba SCA and illegal dumping in his June e-newsletter, <http://eepurl.com/b46viT>.
- Glinda's representative asked a question at the recent Candidate Forum, for the Federal Seat of Hunter, about how the candidates would assist LMCC in protecting and managing bushland in west Lake Macquarie. This question was the last formal question for the night. Story and Video by the Lakes Mail and Arjay Martin, [www.lakesmail.com.au/story/4003717/candidates-for-the-seat-of-hunter-faced-local-voters-on-wednesday-video](http://www.lakesmail.com.au/story/4003717/candidates-for-the-seat-of-hunter-faced-local-voters-on-wednesday-video), at about 1hr21min.
- A summary of the campaign was also added to the Alliance website: [www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/awaba-state-conservation-area](http://www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/awaba-state-conservation-area)

#### **9.4 Wangi Centenary Celebration, Sunday 23 October**

Event application and risk assessment have been submitted to Council for their review and approval. Once finalised, these will be circulated to the Alliance board for review.

#### **9.5 Further resources and detailed report from Redhead Bag Making Workshop**

Detailed report from Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood about their bag making workshop held on 18 June. A summary, photos, and a link to bag making instructions here, [www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/bag-making-workshop](http://www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/bag-making-workshop)

Would be great to get pattern and fabric instructions for the vegie bags too.

## **10 For information**

### **10.1 Health and Safety Training, Tuesday 30 August, 5.30 – 8.30pm**

Invitations have been sent to all Sustainable Neighbourhood Groups, and requested that at least one volunteer from each group attend.

### **10.2 Website statistics for June 2016**

See chart below

## **11 Meeting close.**

Next ordinary meeting date: Tuesday 16 August, 6-8pm

**Treasurer's Report:**

**LAKE MACQUARIE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS ALLIANCE**

**GENERAL MEETING**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**1 June, to 30 June, 2016.**



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

**Balance** **\$14,967.49CR**

**RECEIPTS**

Interest 0.04c

10 June Direct Credit 032106 Lake Macquarie Cncl  
LMCC 994436 \$ 2,926.00

Total Receipts \$ 2,926.04c

**EXPENDITURE**

30 June Chq 000059 W.Wsend SNG \$ 426.95

Total Expenditure \$ 426.95c

**BALANCE** **\$ 17,466.58CR**

This is a true statement of accounts for the Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhoods Alliance for the period 1 June to 30 June, 2016.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Name Jean McGarry

Title Hon Treasurer

Date 13 July, 2016.

