

Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance

Ordinary Meeting

MINUTES

Tuesday 18 July 2017, 6.00 - 8.00pm

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



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

1 Chairperson

Avril accepted the nomination to Chair the meeting in Dot's absence.

2 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.

3 Apologies

As above.

4 Conflict of interest

None stated.

5 Previous meeting

5.1 Ordinary meeting minutes, 20 June 2017

Correction to the May Treasurer's report. Closing balance was actually \$13,822.10. Minutes have been updated accordingly.

MOTION: That the previous meeting minutes dated 20 June 2017, be confirmed as an accurate record, with the amendment noted above.

5.2 Business arising from the minutes

Outstanding actions from previous meetings:

- 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.

- Action from June meeting: Fishing rubbish in lake and ocean (Education campaign to decrease the level of fishing debris, and stormwater litter ending up in the lake and foreshore.)
 - Steve will contact DPI to find out where people can buy fishing Licenses in Lake Mac (complete), and whether DPI are interested in doing something at the Living Smart Festival.

- Colin will contact the Coastal Zone Management Committee Secretary to request it is added to their agenda. → Will be completed next week.
 - Steve will contact Margo Smith regarding drain stencilling.
 - Action from June meeting - Mid-year update and promotion. Would be valuable to compile a summary of recent achievements of Sustainable Neighbourhood Groups and to promote.
ACTION: Rachelle will include summary of current projects and achievements in SN News; and Eco Advocate if possible.
 - 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.
 - Action from November meeting: Suggestion to approach / research plastic manufacturers / packaging associations to tackle plastic packaging and pollution from the other end.
New ACTION (June): Steve will enquire with Planet Ark about whether there are already efforts to liaise with plastic packaging manufacturers; and to seek advice about suitable organisations to approach.
 - Feedback from Steve. He contacted REDcycle:
 - REDcycle are partnered with Coles and Woolworths, but it is up to Woolworths to roll out the program to all of their stores (it appears that hasn't happened).
 - They don't have any current plans to expand to Aldi or IGA
 - They suggested contacting the Australian Packaging Covenant - <http://www.packagingcovenant.org.au/>
- Additional comments from Steve:
- After the "War on Waste", there has been a 400 percent increase in people trying to get their local supermarket involved.
 - Planet Ark has an agreement with Woolies to reduce plastic wrapping.
 - Really don't think it is worth contacting Aust. Plastic Covenant as it is up to the supermarkets to request less packaging.
 - After "War on Waste", there's been a 400% increase in sale of reusable coffee cups-in fact, they have had to order in more from overseas.

New ACTION: Robyn will get in contact with the Australian Packaging Covenant, as it is still an approach that the LT Creek SNG would like to pursue.

6 Correspondence

- Letter from the Alliance was sent to Council, congratulating their commitment to community engagement, and for winning the recent Excellence in Planning award.
- Final report for the Toronto Area SNG's Community Building Partnership grant (Brighton Ave Footpath) was submitted.
- Letter from the Alliance was sent to the Wangi Area SNG expressing congratulations and thanks to the group.
- Final report for the Warners Bay Area SNG's Local Land Services Grant (Nature Play Adventure) was submitted.
- Sustainable Neighbourhood News, 29 June and 6 July
- Invitation to public lecture, "Metro Planning Insights for Greater Newcastle" from NSW Planning and Environment
- Invitation to the Wangi Centenary Committee's event to bury their time capsule
- Notes from the Boomerang Alliance's Plastic Bag Ban meeting, 22 June
- Requests received from website seeking volunteers to participate in research project for Macquarie University. Forwarded to Pelican, West Wallsend, Toronto, Dora Creek SNGs.

- Confirmation regarding altered expenditure for Pit Pony Park grant project (Stronger Communities Programme)

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

Moved: Jean. Seconded: Norbert. Carried.

7 Treasurers report

7.1 Treasurer's report for June 2017

See report attached, below.

MOTION: That the Treasurers Report is accepted.

Moved: Jean. Seconded: Norbert. Carried.

8 For discussion & decision

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

We have received a request from the Australian Red Cross and Council to nominate a Sustainable Neighbourhoods representative on a Regional Reference Group to focus on disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

Further details have been circulated via email.

Jean indicated her interest and willingness to nominate for the reference group. Also discussed that it would be ideal to share the workload among the SN membership if possible, or to identify members who have a specific interest or expertise.

Resolution: To seek interest from Alliance Board Members and/or the Sustainable Neighbourhood network to participate in the reference group.

Carried.

8.2 Updated website guide

The Alliance's website guide has been updated to remove outdated instructions.

MOTION: To approve this new version for distribution to members.

Carried.

8.3 LT Creek Flood Management Plan

Report back from the CZMC's previous meeting. Included a presentation about the LT Creek Flood Management Plan. The consultant's report was simplified and may have included errors; and didn't include consideration of the potential impact of Centennial Coals assets.

Robyn has suggested to the Committee Secretary to host an inspection of Centennial Coal Newstan Water Management Plant.

ACTION: Colin, as Alliance representative on the CZMC, will chase up progress with planning for the inspection with the CZMC secretary.

8.4 Plastic Bag 'Ban' by major supermarkets

The Alliance Board noted and applauded the announcement by Woolworths, Coles, and Harris Farm to phase out free plastic bags in their stores.

This move strengthens the case for a legislated plastic bag ban for the remaining states without one, NSW, VIC and WA.

8.5 Festival of Friendship – Toronto Library

Request from Robyn to participate in this event as a representative of the Alliance.

Agreed.

9 Requests from member groups

9.1 Promotion stall at Warners Bay Markets – 8 July

Risk assessment circulated and approved via email.

9.2 Cardiff RRR Car Boot Sale – 13 August

Risk assessment circulated via email.

Approved.

9.3 Cardiff Area – Cycle / Walkways Forum – 20 July

Risk assessment circulated via email.

Approved.

9.4 Greater Charlestown – Eco Angel Clean Up – 30 July

Risk assessment circulated via email.

Approved.

9.5 Warners Bay – Winter Nature Play Adventure - TBC

Details to come. The event is scheduled for Sunday 6 August. A risk assessment and running sheet will be circulated via email next week.

10 Report backs from member groups and projects

10.1 Bag Swap Stations – Blackalls Park, Redhead (and Boolaroo tbc)

- A box for reusable bags has been installed at the Blackalls Park Friendly Grocer. Now working to improve the signage and find a better stand/platform to put it on.

ACTION: Need to visit the store to talk with Ash, the Manager

- Redhead are also liaising with local shop owners to set up similar stations. They are also providing a number of new reusable bags (from Council)
- LGA at Boolaroo might also be interested.

ACTION: Currently working to coordinate a media release, once above actions are complete.

Rathmines Area SNG are also looking at doing something similar for their local shops.

They are also organising a Boomerang Bags sewing Bee in September.

10.2 Native Tree Symposium

Native trees are our future - Landcare Super Saturday Session. Steve promoted on ABC radio 6 July.

Detailed report-back and 10-point summary was circulated via email.

10.3 LT Creek Update

Good news! Two of the illegal dumping sites that Robyn C has been venting about for the last 14 months, has been cleaned up. This has been at Awaba and Myuna Bay. Thanks to Crown Lands, their contractor, Goninan and Sons at Awaba and Origin Energy – Eraring for the Myuna site. The other good news in regards to illegal dumping is that Centennial Coal and Crown Lands will be working together in the Awaba Area, dealing with the illegal dumping issue.

<http://www.lakesmail.com.au/story/4760946/inside-lake-macquaries-illegal-dump-minefields-photos/>

Robyn C spoke briefly with the CEO of Biraban LALC and she has permission to go back on to the Scribbly Gum Reserve. The Land Council are continuing their investigations and will get back to Robyn ASAP.

The presentation of Awaba Conservation Area to the West Wallsend District SNG went well and was well attended.

10.4 Dog management brochure

Printing is in progress!

The brochure has been added to the website, <http://www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/dog-brochure.html>.

10.5 Enquiry to Council regarding Companion Animal and dog attack statistics

Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood has submitted a letter to Council to highlight concerning dog attack and other statistics drawn from Council's Annual Reports. They are requesting 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.

Resolution: Alliance Board supports the Redhead SN's concern and submission to Council, and await response from Council.

10.6 Enquiry to Hunter Water Community Consultative Forum

Colin has come across this website promoting "flushable, soluble" dog poo bags, www.flushablepoobags.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.

The next HWCCF meeting is scheduled for September.

Action: Jean will enquire with Hunter Water Community Consultative Forum.

- Is it allowable to dispose of dog poo through the sewerage system?
- Are these bags suitable for flushing, and is that something that Hunter Water would be happy for us to promote?
- What is the current contribution to stormwater pollution from dog poo?

10.7 Wangi Area SNG – time capsule

The last activity for the Wangi Centenary Committee was to bury their time capsule.

<http://www.lakesmail.com.au/story/4788577/time-capsule-items-sure-to-amuse-or-confuse-in-50-years-photos/>

10.8 Coffee Cups

Toronto. Steve completed another survey of coffee shops, and reported that now there are only 3 cafes left who still use the plastic-lined takeaway cups (In Nov 2016 there were 5). All allow people to BYO their own reusable cup. Some offer discounts if you bring your own.

Warners Bay proposal.

Their detailed proposal was circulated via email. They are seeking to work with all cafes in Warners Bay to encourage use of reusable coffee cups. Ideas included purchasing reusable cups to use as

giveaways through the cafes, along with other incentives / partnership with cafes and others, e.g Warners Bay Chamber of Commerce and Responsible Cafes. At this stage they are looking for feedback and ideas.

Their proposal has also been circulated among relevant Council staff for comment. So far the main feedback has been:

- Share the cost of the cups with the customers, rather than just giving them away. There is a risk that giving the cups away could just make them less valued, and doesn't necessarily motivate someone to change their behaviour. If customers pay a discounted rate, they are more likely to remember and reuse their cups.
- Customers could buy the cups up front (at a discounted rate?), but get a loyalty card or similar that gives them reduced prices for their next 10 coffees – that would kind of pay back the price of the cup.
- As it is, the proposal is not eligible for one of Council's Environmental Sustainability Grants - the guidelines specifically state that 'gifts and prizes' are not eligible. With adjustments (eg cost-sharing as above), the project could be eligible.

Additional suggestions include contacting Toronto Tidy Towns, as they ran a water bottle giveaway that could be relevant.

Rachelle will meet with WBASNG volunteers to discuss further.

10.9 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.

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>

10.10 Stall at Warners Bay Markets

Report-back from Warners Bay Area SNG - It was a beautiful day with heaps of people, we collected 7 new email contacts who wanted to go on our email list.

Plenty of feedback about the recycle display, people still don't know how to recycle and have asked for more information. We are currently using our FB posts "waste less Wednesdays" to achieve this.

No suggestions for projects but people were keen to chat and some connected with us via FB.

People came and asked specifically about our nature play adventures (they were already on our list).

It was lovely to spend time with fellow members and we really connected and had great discussion for future projects and the positive direction of our active group.

10.11 Webb Park, Redhead

Group members recently met with Council staff regarding the Webb Park redevelopment. It is recognised as a 'destination park', and there will be improvements to the playground, seating, picnic tables etc.

This was following the group's long term interest in the park, and their previous work to seek feedback from local residents, and work cooperatively with Council staff.

11 Meeting close.

Meeting close: 8pm

Next meeting date: 15 August 2017, 6-8pm

Treasurer's Report:



LAKE MACQUARIE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS ALLIANCE

GENERAL MEETING

TREASURER'S REPORT

1 June to 30 June 2017.

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

Balance **\$ 13,822.10CR**

RECEIPTS

05 June Dr Cr 463866 LL Services 137514	\$ 1,000.00
16 June Dr Cr -32106 LMCC 1008586	\$ 1,856.00
19 June Dr Cr 364093 Keep Aust.Beaut. Litter Grant	\$ <u>3,995.20</u>

Total Receipts \$ 6,851.20

EXPENDITURE

Total Expenditure \$ NIL

BALANCE **\$ 20,673.30CR**

This is a true statement of accounts for the Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhoods Alliance for the period 1 June to 30 June, 2017.

Signed _____

Name Jean McGarry

Title Hon Treasurer

Date 18 July, 2017.