

Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance

Ordinary Meeting

MINUTES

Tuesday 16 May 2017, 6.00 - 8.00pm

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



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

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

As above.

3 Conflict of interest

None stated.

4 Guest speaker - Wes Hain – Our future in detail

The Community Strategic Plan has now been adopted by Council, and includes the long term objectives and aspirations for Council

Currently, there are four additional documents on exhibition:

- Draft four year Delivery Program 2017-2021;
- Draft Operational Plan for 2017-2018;
- Draft Resourcing Strategy 2017-2027; and
- Draft Fees and Charges 2017-2018.

All of these documents are available at www.haveyoursaylakemac.com.au/future-in-detail.

On the same webpage, there is also an interactive map that details the capital projects that are planned for 2017-18. Residents can use the map to comment or start a discussion about any of the planned works.

In future, Council plans to include more forward planning on this map (eg to show 2 or more years ahead).

RESOLUTION: The Alliance congratulates Council for their commitment to community engagement, and for the developing this innovative interactive map tool.

The board also raised the recent accolade awarded to Council for their Local Adaptation Planning Process. Council was awarded a 2017 PIA National Award for Planning Excellence.

ACTION: That the Alliance write a letter to Council, congratulating their commitment to community engagement, and for winning the recent award.

Moved: Colin. Seconded: Robyn. Carried.

5 Previous meeting

5.1 Ordinary meeting minutes, 18 April 2017

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

Moved: Steve. Seconded: Robyn. Carried.

5.2 Business arising from the minutes

No additional business arising from the April meeting

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

- Sustainable Neighbourhood News, 20 April
- Notice from Council about successful grant – West Wallsend District SNG – Community Garden
- Notice regarding the 2017 Commonwealth Bank *Not-for-profit* Treasurers' Awards – now open
- Various notices from the Boomerang Alliance – regarding phone link up and encouragement to write letters to local papers about plastic bags.
- Enquiry to Keep NSW Beautiful regarding Rathmines Community Litter Grant

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

Moved: Colin. Seconded: Dot. Carried.

7 Treasurers report

7.1 Treasurer's report for April 2017

See report attached, below.

MOTION: That the Treasurers Report is accepted.

Moved: Jean. Seconded: Steve. Carried.

8 For discussion & decision

8.1 Fishing rubbish in lake and ocean – Toronto Area SNG

A number of locals and boaties have raised the issue of fishing debris (including fishing lines / rope / bait bags, as well as generic litter takeaway / bottles etc) in the lake and foreshore. The TASNG are considering doing a targeted Eco Angel Clean Up to assist – probably in spring time.

They are also requesting that the Alliance investigate a possible education campaign, targeting boat users, and fisherman to encourage responsible disposal of their litter / waste. A campaign could include educational signage at boat ramps and fishing spots; and installation of bins at appropriate sites.

'Tangler Bins' are small 'pipe' bins that are installed at key locations (eg boat ramps) specifically to collect fishing line and hooks. Where they have been installed in other places, a community group has taken responsibility for the regular removal of rubbish from them.

<http://www.whatsoninourbackyard.com.au/tangler-bins-installed-in-port-stephens/>

<http://www.oceanwatch.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/TAngler-Bin.pdf>

Discussion and issues to consider:

- Lead by TASNG, with support from other Westlake groups?
- Potential for Council to lead the project eg as part of their existing management of boat ramps?
- Identify suitable locations
- Possible partnership with OCCI – Steve has spoken with Janet White who already does regular clean ups.
- Approach Origin Energy for some grant funding. Could also be suitable for a KNSWB Community Litter Grant
- Could start with a pilot project in West Ward.
- Identifying suitable fishing / boating groups to partner with
- Land manager permission – generally, public boat ramps are crown land under care and control of Council

ACTION: Colin to approach Council's Coastal Zone Management Committee to request to put it on the agenda for their next meeting, in order to seek advice from range of relevant stakeholders at the committee.

ACTION: Steve will continue to research potential partnerships, for example OCCI.

ACTION: Robyn will investigate potential for grant funding from Origin energy.

8.2 Updated Risk Assessment Form

Following our discussion with Ingrid from Ability Links at our last meeting, some suggested amendments to the Alliance's risk assessment form have been made. A draft was circulated via email.

On board members' suggestion, the draft has now been sent to relevant Council staff to seek their feedback as well.

Agreed to hold off on finalisation of this update until feedback received from relevant Council staff.

8.3 Email communications – Alliance Board Members

Request and reminder from board members to use 'reply all' where appropriate in Alliance Board emails. This will help keep everyone up to date.

9 Requests from member groups

9.1 Request to Hunter Water Community Consultative Forum

LT Creek SNG would like to know more about the management plan Hunter Water has for Lot 2 DP 810981, Wangi Road, Wangi (Myuna Bay). It is our understanding that Hunter Water has (is) acquired a part of this land from the Crown, as part of an easement for a pipeline.

It is a part of the Scribbly Gum Reserve.

ACTION: Jean will forward this request on to the Hunter Water Community Consultative Forum

The next meeting is scheduled for September.

9.2 Boomerang Bags Sewing Bee – Cardiff Area SNG

Risk assessment circulated via email.

Approved.

10 Report backs from member groups and projects

10.1 Cardiff Area SNG – Wreath making workshop

This activity proved to be very popular with the participants on Saturday 22nd April. Quite a range of wreaths were produced using the wide range of plant materials that were provided free of charge. The activity was considered successful enough to produce a call to conduct another event in December - in time for Christmas. The event would not have been possible without the help of Cardiff Library and LMCC.

CASNG would like give a big thank you to Melissa and Cardiff Library.

10.2 Cardiff Area SNG – Compost bin making workshop

About 10 participants/volunteers attended, and were impressed with the quality of the workshop and presentation.

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

LLS grant was successful, and will be paid on submission of a final report.

The event itself was very successful. It was booked out very quickly. Initial feedback is that participants found it a very valuable activity. Awaiting responses from survey for additional feedback.

There's a video on their facebook page, and more photos coming: <https://www.facebook.com/WBSNG/>.

10.4 Boomerang Bags - LT Creek and Toronto Area SNG + Cardiff Area

LT Creek SNG is working with Toronto Area SNG to reduce plastic bag consumption in west Lake Macquarie. Assisting with an information stall at Toronto Town Square and facilitating the first Boomerang Bag project in west Lake Macquarie at the Blackalls Park Friendly Grocer.

A box for reusable bags has been installed at the Blackalls Park Friendly Grocer. Now working on seeking some publicity / media, and to liaise with Lake Mac Boomerang Bags and their upcoming sewing bee with Cardiff Area SNG. Redhead are also planning a similar

ACTION: Rachelle to help coordinate a media release(s) to promote these various initiatives.

10.5 Awaba Conservation Area

Glinda continues to spread the word about the Scribbly Gum Reserve and Awaba Conservation Area, with photo opportunities with Federal Member of the Hunter, Joel Fitzgibbon and his wife, Diane and with Patrice Newell, Penny Dunstan and the Easter Bunny.

Dr Terry Annable visited the site and written an interim report on the flora and fauna he observed. Members of the Hunter Bird Observers Club have also been out. The bird list is growing.

As mentioned in a special announcement earlier in May, the main parcel of land of the Scribbly Gum Reserve is no longer owned by the Crown and is now owned by Biraban Local Aboriginal Land Council. All research on the Scribbly Gum Reserve will now be suspended, pending discussions with the Biraban LALC.

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

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

10.7 Redhead ANZAC Centenary Project – Book launch

Successful launch event held on 9 May, with a front page article in the Star as well:

<http://www.newcastlestar.com.au/story/4642937/redhead-wwi-project/>. About 55 people attended. Good opportunity to complete the project, and to thank the many people involved in its implementation.

10.8 Native Trees Talk – Landcare Super Saturday Session

Landcare Super Saturday Session - 8 July. Details will be promoted in the Eco Advocate, and Sustainable Neighbourhood News when they are available.

Also relevant to the topic are a number of concerning developments in western Lake Macquarie that involve the removal of large numbers of trees. About 100 people attended an onsite Land and Environment Court meeting in Toronto on Monday to protest against a proposed development there. Other developments in Boolaroo and West Wallsend areas are also concerning.

10.9 Sustainable Neighbourhoods review

Three major reports from the results of the SN reviews are now completed and available on the SN website:

- Volunteer Survey results
- Results from group meetings
- Results from Council staff survey

All can be downloaded from here: <http://www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/strengthening-sustainable-neighbourhoods.html>

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.

Councillor survey is currently in progress.

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

10.10 Dog management brochure

The final version of the brochure is just being reviewed and (almost!) ready to print.

ACTION: Rachelle to coordinate a face to face meeting with existing project team to finalise the brochure for printing.

10.11 Brighton Avenue Footpath project

Construction has started on the footpath. Toronto Area SNG are planning a launch / celebration/media event for when it is completed.

11 Meeting close.

Meeting close: 7:50pm

Next meeting date: 20 June 2017, 6-8pm

Treasurer's Report:

LAKE MACQUARIE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS ALLIANCE

GENERAL MEETING

TREASURER'S REPORT

1 April to 30 April 2017.



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

Balance **\$ 14,185.64CR**

RECEIPTS

Total Receipts \$ NIL

EXPENDITURE

Total Expenditure \$ NIL

BALANCE **\$ 14,185.64CR**

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

Signed _____

Name Jean McGarry

Title Hon Treasurer

Date 9 May, 2017.