

Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance

Ordinary Meeting

MINUTES

Tuesday 19 February 2019, 6.00 - 8.00pm

Committee Room, Council Administration Building



Present:	Christine Aus, Robyn Charlton, Gabrielle Clappison, Steve Dewar, Jean McGarry, Colin Mondy Rachelle McConville (LMCC)
Apologies:	Jonathan Wood, Avril Lockton

Start: 6.00pm

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, 18 December 2018

MOTION: That the previous meeting minutes dated 18 December 2018, be confirmed as an accurate record.

Moved: Gab; Seconded: Steve; Carried.

3.2 Business arising from the minutes

- (November action): Board member attendance at local group meetings – in progress.
- (December action): Board members to check their web profiles <http://www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/alliance-board-members.html>, and let Rachelle know if they have any updates.
- (December action): Newsletter item to let people know that they can receive the board minutes directly; and that minutes are all on the website - Complete
- (December action): Include Facebook stories about progress, actions and discussions at Alliance Board meetings – In progress
- (December action): Organise speaker from Hunter Water resilience team to talk to network meeting – In progress
- (December action): Letter was sent to catalogue distributors regarding littering of junk mail. No response received as yet. – Feb update: EPA Litter grants are available and might be suitable for a project targeting junk mail.

4 Correspondence

- Notice from Grill'd Charlestown that we received the biggest donation from their December fundraiser.
- Confirmation from Dept Family and Community Services (Community Building Partnership Grant) that they have received the Completion Report for the Holmesville Community Garden seating area project.

Additional request for further information regarding payments was completed, and the project has now been closed.

- Boomerang Alliance January Newsletter
- Request to start a new Sustainable Neighbourhood group in Maryland (Newcastle). Response suggested joining in West Wallsend District SNG activities, and contacting Transition Newcastle.
- Boomerang Alliance letter on behalf of their allies seeking support from NSW political party leaders to support a NSW plastic bag ban in the lead up to the March election
- Request from Children's University (see item 6.1)
- Lake Macquarie Business Newsletter January 2019
- Request to Cooranbong and Dora Creek members to consider working with Morisset and Peninsula SNG
- Request from Council for support for Fernleigh Awaba Shared Pathway extension (see item 6.2)
- Information to participate in the Boomerang Alliance Shopper Survey
- Request for feedback regarding 2019 networking events – sent to SN Key Contacts
- Letter sent to PMP Limited and Salmat (catalogue distribution companies) regarding catalogue litter.
- Sustainable Neighbourhood News February 2019
- Notification of Waste to Art exhibition dates (See item 8.7)
- Request to Hunter Water for speaker to attend SN networking event in March to speak about water resilience and demand management
- Information from Les Robinson forwarded to SN Key Contacts
- Response from Council regarding Alliance request for increased collaboration. (See item 8.2)

5 Treasurers report

5.1 Treasurer's report for December 2018 and January 2019

See attached below.

Moved: Jean. Seconded: Chris. Carried.

6 For discussion & decision

6.1 Children's University

Children's University (managed through Newcastle Uni) offers educational experiences and volunteering opportunities for children and young people outside of school.

More information here www.childrensuniversity.com.au.

They have approached the Alliance to consider including Sustainable Neighbourhoods as a 'Learning Destination'. This means our activities will be promoted on their website to participating schools, children and their families.

Many activities we already run would be suitable for participation. For example, Boomerang Bag workshops, Repair Cafes, Clean Up events etc. Their guidelines require that children are always supervised by their parent or guardian, which is consistent with existing Alliance Child Protection Policy.

The benefits to SN will be greater promotion, targeted at local young people and their families, with very minimal administration burden from our end.

The partnership agreement was circulated via email for review.

PROPOSAL: That the Alliance agree to sign up as a Children's University Learning Destination.

Moved: Robyn. Seconded: Gab. Carried

6.2 Support for Fernleigh / Awabakal Shared Pathway

We have received a request from Council to provide a letter of support for a State Government grant they are applying for. The project is for the extension of the Fernleigh Track from Belmont to Blacksmiths, including art and cultural installations, and an elevated boardwalk through the Belmont wetlands.

Some brief information about the project was circulated via email. Some discussion via email identifying that resources for similar projects are missing on the west side of the lake.

PROPOSAL: That the Alliance provides a letter of support to Council to support their grant application for the extension of the Fernleigh Track.

ACTION: In addition, communicate with Council identifying need for resources for shared pathway on the west side of the lake. Sustainable Neighbourhood groups have been advocating for crucial cycle links on the west side for years (eg between Toronto and Rathmines), and improving cycle and walking links is included in all local SNAPS. Note that the Fernleigh proposal mentions ability to overpass wetlands; and that this presents an opportunity to utilise the same technique to overcome barriers on west lake routes.

Moved: Steve. Seconded: Chris. Carried.

6.3 Tree Canopy / Urban Forest policy - proposal

Jonathan has developed a policy / process proposal to facilitate the development of a Tree Canopy / Urban Forest Policy in Lake Mac. The draft guidelines were developed by Jonathan, and include:

- A policy proposal detailing the benefits of increasing tree canopy coverage; existing policies; and a number of recommendations to Council to proactively increase tree cover, and enable residents to plant trees on public land.
- A proposed guide outlining a possible approval process for residents to plant trees on public land.
- An example of a tree planting consent request.
- Council's existing list of preferred street tree species.

PROPOSAL: That the Alliance present the Tree Canopy / Urban Forest Policy proposal to Council staff, and seek to establish a working group with relevant Council staff to pursue the development of a Tree Canopy / Urban Forest policy.

Moved: Gab. Seconded: Jean. Carried.

6.4 Dantia

Suggestion to ask Dantia to speak with the Alliance board at a future meeting. Members are keen to know more about their report that informed the Council meeting of 29 October 2018, and implications for future planning and strategies for the City.

ACTION: Invite presentation from Dantia at upcoming SN meeting. (Steve)

Moved: Robyn. Seconded: Gab. Carried.

7 Requests and risk assessments

7.1 Toronto Picnic in the Park, 22 February (Five Bays and Toronto SNGs)

Risk assessment circulated via email. Approved.

7.2 Stall at Redhead Surfest markets, 10 February (Redhead)

Risk assessment circulated and approved via email.

7.3 Plastic Free education booths, Mar-April (Alliance)

Risk assessment circulated via email. Approved.

7.4 Stall at Endless Summer event, 17 February (Alliance)

Risk assessment circulated and approved via email.

7.5 Banners, Toronto Area

TASNG has requested that the Alliance have a couple of banners (not free standing) be made up with the Alliance logo and the individual SNG logos for individual groups to use when required.

ACTION: Rachelle will liaise with them to design a citywide banner (coated fabric style)

7.6 Seasonal Plant Swap events, March – December (Greater Charlestown SNG)

Risk assessment circulated for 4 events, 16 March, 15 June, 14 September and 7 December. Approved.

8 Report backs

8.1 Strategy progress

Summarised Strategy doc is currently with graphic design. Expect it to be finalised by 25 Feb, and printed soon after.

Draft doc circulated at meeting.

8.2 Improved collaboration with Council

The Alliance has received a response from Council regarding the request for improved collaboration. In summary, the response expressed general support for Alliance strategies to develop and enhance the relationship between Councillors, key staff and the Alliance. Suggestion to manage policy matters by topic / issue rather than regular meetings. Relevant matters can be brought to a Council Portfolio Committee through staff; or the Alliance can invite Councillors and relevant staff to meet to discuss specific items of interest.

Some additional advice from Rachelle:

- Will pass on some further information about Councils Portfolio Committees; who is on them, their purpose, and how the public can engage with them.
- Welcome the encouragement to seek project/issue based collaboration with staff.
- Suggest using the draft Urban Forest proposal (Item 6.3) as a starting point to test how the Alliance can best collaborate with Council.

Communicate with membership about this as an additional avenue for advocacy (ie through the Alliance).

8.3 Visiting local group meetings

Report back from Morisset and Peninsula meeting. Probably not likely to join Alliance teams. Small group with plenty of good ideas, eg:

- Amalgamate with other areas. They would like to join with Cooranbong, previous groups at Dora Ck, maybe Wangi.
- Use more publicity in local newspapers, and spread articles/copies of talks to other areas, eg Lindi's talk on chemicals last evening.
- Involve other clubs, eg Rotary, Lions, Progress Associations.
- Have events with other SNGs, eg Repair Café
- Use guest speakers
- Involve young people more

Steve has also arranged to visit Toronto and Rathmines meetings in February.

8.4 Team recruitment

Board members agreed to Team Guidelines and Roles over January, as a guide / internal working document. Recruitment messages and targets are currently being developed, including idea to offer internship positions.

8.5 2019 Networking events

Thanks to everyone for feedback about networking events:

- people are keen to try afternoon meetings
- evening meetings are more palatable if dinner is provided.

A bunch of great ideas for topics, including

- Council's Adaptation Planning process
- indigenous cultural training
- putting a project together - covering what's in our toolkit
- quality water - best ways to ensure Lake Mac stays clean
- hearing what other groups are doing
- A mix of environmental and social sustainability.
- Water resilience is good place to start given the heat wave we have had.
- Hear about other networking opportunities eg other groups who SNGs might partner with for different projects: Scouts, U3A, Land Care, etc.
- Workshop on networking skills – how each SNG might discover other groups in their area whom they might partner in projects with.

Will be great to incorporate these into future networking events.

Agenda for Wed 27 Feb includes:

- Hunter Water – Resilience and demand management
- Team building exercise
- Supper and time to chat

8.6 Grill'd fundraiser

Thankyou to everyone who supported our fundraiser in December at Grill'd Charlestown Square. We received the highest donation of \$300 - hooray! Thanks Gab and Colin for going in to pick up the cheque.

8.7 Report from February Coastal Zone Management Committee meeting

- Feedback about Hunter Water's desalination plant proposal?
- Response from agencies / committee regarding particle pollution and fly ash contamination reports?

ACTION: Colin will circulate meeting minutes

8.8 Waste to Art

Council has offered the following exhibition dates:

- Launchpad@Charlestown, 24 May to 10 August 2019 (Charlestown Library, Corner Smith and Ridley Streets). Note this will only include space in 3 display cabinets (no hanging space)
- SEEN@Swansea, Saturday 12 October – Sunday 1 December 2019

8.9 Plastic Free Toronto

Only a handful of cafes and shops in Toronto that are still handing out single-use plastic products, and many of these are phasing out their back stock as they move to a more responsible product.

Media release drafted.

8.10 Stall at Redhead markets

The Redhead Sustainable Neighbourhood stall at the markets on Sunday was a great success. A great big thanks is due to our members who could turn out to help. We had 8 members who contributed a total of 24 hours volunteered time.

Pedestrian safety, litter, plastic and water pollution, dog management, 4WD on the beach, caring for our native vegetation, wise energy use and ensuring sustainability were all raised by the people we spoke to.

And we spoke to hundreds of people, gave out about 75 reusable bags and lots of information brochures, and we will take notice of the many suggestions that were placed in the suggestion box for the benefit of Redhead.

Set up 'voting jars' for people to indicate their most important preference of 4 local issues. Excellent tool to engage with people, and encourage them to stop and talk.

<https://www.facebook.com/RedheadSustainableNeighbourhood/posts/831502867193671>

8.11 Pamper Care Update:

The Pamper Care Project and associated partners assisted seven people in December 2018 and 12 People in January 2019. The January numbers are up by five people, as in January 2018, we assisted seven people.

We will be assisting Toronto High School, again this year. No feedback from Lake Mac High as yet.

We are in need of deodorant, shampoo and conditioner and "dry" food product.

8.12 Endless Summer event

Fun day and lovely company. The organising team and the YACers were very friendly and helpful, especially with setting up and dismantling. Some lovely conversations over the course of the day, but mostly not with 16-24 year olds.

Body scrub is very easy to do, and is very popular, so it's a good activity to keep in mind. Worm farming is too much work for this setting. Potting succulents is also easy, and could be used again, or in a different venue.

Benefit from council contacts and the YAC team.

If we participate again, then it would be easier with more notice (is it always in February?), and we could think of some other activities too.

Young people (YAC members) are particularly keen to access our training opportunities.

8.13 Boomerang Bags, Cardiff Area SNG

Monthly 2019 workshops are going well. The report from January included:

A group of our core 2018 volunteers, plus another new volunteer, gathered in the cool school Library on a hot January Sunday, to kick start the 2019 Boomerang Bags Sewing Workshops.

Many of the 2018 team arrived with shopping bags which they had sewn together during the break - and they continued the trend for the team to produce good looking bags by adding simple features like hessian tape.

More info here: <http://www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/boomerang-bags-sewing-workshop.html>

9 For Information

9.1 Clean Up Aust Day, Sunday 3 March

9.2 Environmental Sustainability Grants, due 11 March

* Note SN applications need approval from Alliance board prior to submitting.

9.3 Harmony Day, 21 March

9.4 Earth Hour, 30 March

9.5 Neighbour Day, 31 March

10 Meeting close

Close: 8.03pm

Next meeting date: Tuesday 19 March, 6pm

Treasurer's Report

LAKE MACQUARIE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS ALLIANCE

GENERAL MEETING

TREASURER'S REPORT

1 December to 31 December, 2018.



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

Balance **\$ 10,322.45CR**

RECEIPTS

Nil

Total Income \$ NIL

EXPENDITURE

NIL

Total Expenditure \$ NIL

BALANCE **\$ 10,321.45CR**

This is a true statement of accounts for the Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhoods Alliance for the period 1 December to 31 December, 2018.

Signed _____

Name Jean McGarry

Title Hon Treasurer

Date 15 January, 2019.

LAKE MACQUARIE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS ALLIANCE



GENERAL MEETING

TREASURER'S REPORT

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Signed _____

Name Jean McGarry

Title Hon Treasurer

Date 19 February, 2019.