

# Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance

## Ordinary Meeting

### MINUTES

Monday 10 September 2018, 6.00 - 8.00pm

Board room, Teralba Bowling Club, 2a York Street



<b>Invited:</b>	Robyn Charlton, Gabrielle Clappison, Steve Dewar, Jean McGarry (arr 6.25pm), Colin Mondy Rachelle McConville (LMCC) Ray Hinton (Warners Bay Area SNG)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Avril Lockton

Meeting start 6.16pm

## 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 Request: Council Trolley Management Policy – Warners Bay Area SNG – Ray Hinton

Background information circulated via email, including Council notice of motion from November 2017; Example of DA referral with conditions of consent relating to trolley management; and alternative proposal from Ray.

Dumping of shopping trolleys is an issue in many parts of Lake Macquarie, eg Scrubby Creek, Windale. Ray and Alliance have previously made representations to Council to develop a comprehensive Shopping Trolley Management Policy to address the issue; and in November 2017, Council passed a resolution to develop a Policy, including enacting Council's legislative ability to impound and then sell or dispose of abandoned trolleys. Council staff are currently developing this policy as required.

Further consideration of the proposal above determines that it is likely to create considerable costs and workload for Council; and doesn't provide any incentive for retailers to improve their management practices.

Ray is seeking support from the Alliance to workshop and consider alternative management options and develop a more thorough proposal to put to decision-makers.

**RESOLUTION:** Alliance agreement to support Ray's efforts on the issue of trolley management.

**ACTION:** Write letter to Council to:

- Request that implementation of Shopping Trolley Policy is deferred and that the idea of an alternative proposal is raised if possible;
- Seek to set up a regional working party to develop a more considered policy, including representatives from community and other key stakeholders.

Moved: Colin; Seconded: Gab. Carried.

Steve to draft and circulate to board members.

## 4 Previous meeting

### 4.1 Ordinary meeting minutes, 21 August 2018

*MOTION: That the previous meeting minutes dated 21 August 2018, be confirmed as an accurate record.*

Moved: Steve. Seconded: Colin. Carried.

### 4.2 Business arising from the minutes

Outstanding actions:

- (February 2018) Rachelle to write a report to Umwelt summarising benefits of their previous donations, and arrange a meeting with them.
  - Council report available as of 9 July – use as basis to develop an Annual Report for 2017-18.
- (November 2017) Jean to circulate the new charter of the Hunter Water Customer and Community Advisory Committee, when available.

## 5 Correspondence

- Information about proposed temporary desalination plant from Hunter Water was circulated to SN key contacts
- Coordinator from Hunter Community Environment Centre seeking to engage with Sustainable Neighbourhoods network about upcoming film night (Our Power, 24 August) – sent to SN key contacts
- Reply to enquiry from Bali about the bag swap stations and how they are working
- Request to SN key contacts for information about upcoming events to promote at the Living Smart Festival
- Report back from Hunter Water Customer and Community Advisory Group circulated to board members
- Newsletter from Lake Macquarie Business – circulated to board members
- Various correspondence organising Waste to Art exhibition
- Invitation to comment on the Hunter Water plan for a Temporary Desalination Plant at Belmont, and attend site visit on 20 September.
- Request to SN Treasurers to provide 2017-18 income and expenditure details.
- Not-for-profit Finance week – webinar details circulated to SN key contacts
- Remittance advice received for final EPA payment for Rathmines Park project
- Request to Teralba Bowling Club to hold the September Alliance meeting in their board room
- Request to Hunter Water to have a staff member address the October meeting of the Alliance board.
- Sustainable Neighbourhood News, 5 September
- Request to Sprocket coffee regarding coordination of coffee cups at the Living Smart Festival
- Applied to the Grillo Local Matters initiative (Charlestown) for the Alliance to be part of their donation program
- Invitation to attend the Relationships Australia (Neighbour Day) 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Canberra on 19 September.

## 6 Treasurers report

### 6.1 Treasurer's report for August 2018

See attached below.

Moved: Jean. Seconded Steve. Carried.

## 7 For discussion & decision

### 7.1 Strategy and business planning

Final Strategy and Implementation Plan circulated to workshop participants (+ Avril). Note that it is not intended as a public document as it is, but will be important for the board in particular to understand and agree with the strategic direction. An additional public Strategy document is to be developed.

The Board reviewed the document and approved it to provide direction to the next Business Planning component.

RESOLUTION: To approve the Strategy and Implementation Plan

Moved: Colin. Seconded: Gab Carried.

### 7.2 Alliance AGM, SGM and end of year celebration

Proposed dates:

- AGM and SGM – Proposed date Tuesday 20 November, 6pm. Will require some preparation for the Special General Meeting to update our constitution to be consistent with the new Strategy.
- End of year celebration Saturday 10 November, 2-4pm – details TBC

Agreed to pencil in those dates above. Seeking ideas for the celebration event.

## 8 Requests from member groups

### 8.1 Bond for park hire – Five Bays / Toronto Area SNG

Community Harmony Initiative Picnic in the Park scheduled for October. Request for Alliance to pay bond \$250 (and be refunded after the event).

Moved: Robyn. Seconded: Jean. Carried.

### 8.2 Near miss report – Nature play adventure

Report circulated via email detailing a near miss incident that occurred following the conclusion of the Warners Bay Area SNG's nature play adventure in August. To be noted and discussed with a view to prevention of similar incidents in future.

Discussion noted that:

- Event organisers did everything reasonable to adhere to the risk assessment and to protect safety of volunteers and participants.
- Note that it is at Belmont Wetlands State Park (not Redhead as in the report).
- Also should include name and date at bottom of report.
- Incident is indicative of under-resourcing of the BWSP in general.

Some ideas to prevent a similar incident in future:

- Clearer discussion about the importance of and reasons for ensuring the gate is locked; and communicating that to relevant volunteers.
- Have 2 people on the gate.
- Don't open the gate at all; Leave responsibility for the gate with the Ranger.
- Consider risk of drug affected people, and relative risk at different sites and events.

## 9 Report backs from member groups and projects

### 9.1 Living Smart Festival

- Draft roster available. Have enough volunteers now – thank you! (But always great for extras to join in)
- Rachele will send details to volunteers later this week.

## 9.2 Rathmines Area SNG – Project summary

A report with details of projects and achievement since February 2017 was received and circulated to board members via email. The list included:

- Launch event
- Participation in Council's green bin trial
- Advocacy regarding fenced off lead dog area; historic signage; overnight camping in Rathmines Park; vegetation and water quality in Secret Bay area; accessible fishing platform; conservation; and wellbeing infrastructure.
- Community litter grant project at Rathmines Park
- Youth survey
- Bag swap stations at Rathmines shops
- Partnership with Toronto Area SNG for cycleway from Kilaben Bay to Rathmines
- Landcare group
- Community garden – wicking bed workshop
- Detailed submission to Rathmines Park Master Planning consultation

Congratulations to Rathmines Area SNG team. Excellent work!

## 9.3 Pamper Care project

The Blackalls Park Pie and Cake Shop has now closed. Remaining drop off points for donations are at Greg Piper's office in Toronto, and Woodrising Neighbourhood Centre.

A range of items have been distributed through our partner organisations, and providing assistance to xx people.

Glinda's Story Time Adventure – Book week event at Woodrising Neighbourhood Centre. 3 children attended (+ parents). All receive two books and a library bag to take home.

Request to access funds from Pamper Care project donations. \$52.65 spent to restock food items; Additional cash on hand request? \$200 – Approved.

## 9.4 Plastic pollution

Steve has visited all the cafes in Toronto area, and they all accept reusable cups. Some also give a discount if you byo cup. Written summary of status was circulated, including which places give a discount; and which places are willing to have their coffee grounds collected.

Now working to ban straws from local clubs and pubs – 'Straws no more' campaign.

## 9.5 Waste to Art

41 registrations. Now just chasing up what people are making. Registrations are now closed.

Some upcoming dates:

- 11 Sept – meeting at SEEN@Swansea to check out space and finalise exhibition details
- 14 Sept – artworks completed
- Fri 12 October (alt 13 Oct) – Opening night / launch event - TBC
- 13 October – 25 November - Exhibition

## 9.6 Pelican Area SNG – Stall at Pelican Foreshore Markets

Went very well, and a great new market in the area. They were very busy talking to people all day, and had about 15 new sign ups.

## 9.7 Eco Angel Clean Up – Greater Charlestown SNG, 19 August

16 participants and 60kg waste collected. Some photos here:

<https://www.facebook.com/greatercharlestownsg/>

## **9.8 Beeswax wrap workshop – Cardiff Area SNG, 19 August**

Report coming

## **9.9 Winter nature play adventure – Warners Bay SNG, 26 August**

Our sold out event was a wonderful success thanks to all the families and friends coming together for a fun filled morning to explore the properties of fire. The children went hunting for dry twigs, some children learnt damp sticks are hard work, although it wasn't long and everyone at their fire laboratories smouldering away. Using flints to get that spark, then blowing air and adding dry slightly thicker sticks to make a small cooking fire.

We cooked popcorn, marshmallows, apple & cinnamon, melted chocolate and made s'mores. Niki Buchan Natural Learning Australia's fire lady, once again delivered an outstanding morning of learning through play using fire exploration. We also had the honour of Terri and Daniel Harrison from The Nature Nurture Project (Scotland) join us and engaged in the fun. Thanks to Collective Family Day Care Scheme for sponsoring another family orientated event which creates lifetime memories. Some photos here:

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/WBSNG/posts/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/WBSNG/posts/?ref=page_internal)

## **9.10 Public meeting – Toronto Area SNG, 4 September**

500 people attended (and 2 Councillors)

## **9.11 Food Forest workshop - Dudley Community Garden, 8 September**

Thanks to everyone who attended our 2nd Backyard Food Forest Workshop and a huge thanks to Lachlan from Tree Frog Permaculture once again for sharing his wisdom and knowledge on all things that grow and are edible 😊. It was an informative morning as always and this time we got to get out into the garden and expand our Native Bushtucker Patch 🌿. With Lachie's assistance and direction we planted over 60 native bush tucker plants including: Black Apple, Black Plum, Brush Pepper, Davidson Plum, Kangaroo Apple, Native Ginger, Native Mint and Yam, Salt Bushes, Lemon Myrtle, Small Vanilla Lily and Warrigal Greens just to name a few 🌱. Thanks to all who lent a hand planting out our garden. It will be a feast of flavours once the plants establish themselves over the coming months.

Photos here: <https://www.facebook.com/dudleycommunitygarden>

## **9.12 Holmesville Community Garden Spring Fair – West Wallsend District SNG**

Holmesville Community Gardens now officially open!

After a successful Spring Fair, the Holmesville Community Gardens were officially declared open by Clayton Barr, MP and Mayor of Lake Macquarie, Kay Fraser.

The weather held off allowing visitors to enjoy the gardens, live music (by The Barnsley Boys), wonderful cake stalls, repair cafe and information stands.

<https://www.facebook.com/WWDSNG/>

## **9.13 Awaba Road Garden Bed – Toronto Area SNG**

Project plan and risk assessment submitted to Council – Still awaiting approval.

## **9.14 Cardiff Car Boot Sale**

Car Boot Sale went extremely well - very relaxed on a beautiful sunny day. Not huge crowds, but steady flow of people all day - stall holders, Rotary (BBQ) and Coffee Van all happy with how things went.

New feature had an encouraging start - people turned up for the Wetland Wander, and all were most impressed with the Wetland itself ("Didn't know it was there!") and with Mandy McDonald's commentary - its a keeper, and maybe worth expanding.

## **9.15 Rathmines Wicking garden bed workshop**

It was a beautiful morning and we had a very successful morning completing the garden, there were about 18 there in the end and everyone did a bit towards completing the garden. Thanks to Peter and his handy man Len who very kindly put the framework together, it was a great time saver.

You must all go onto Facebook and the Rathmines Community page to see the great write up, videos & photos that Steve Williams our newest member did for me it is fantastic.

It's not only getting the message out about The Sustainable Group but also for Peter and the Centre.

### 9.16 Rathmines Park Litter Project

Final payment has been received from the EPA. Now just have to pay Council outstanding contribution for the bins!

## 10 For Information

10.1 Rachelle to share website stats for next meeting.

## 11 Meeting close

Meeting close: 8.25pm

**Next meeting date: Tuesday 16 October, 6pm**

### Treasurer's Report

#### LAKE MACQUARIE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS ALLIANCE

#### GENERAL MEETING

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

**1 August to 31 August, 2018.**

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

**Balance** **\$ \$15,555.21CR**

#### RECEIPTS

16 August 2018 Tfer B. A Adamthwaite PmprCr	500.00
17 August 2018 Tfer W. Harrison PmprCrProj	50.00
31 August 2018 Dir Cr EPA DE Cr436911	998.81

Total Income	\$ 1,548.80
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#### EXPENDITURE

24 August Chq 000108 Toronto Com, Centre Hub	35.00
24 August Chq 000107 Repeat Plastics /Ww'sendCtyGdn	3,084.75
24 August Chq 000106 Vogue Pergolas /Ww'sendCtyGdn	2,373.50
24 August Chq 000109 Transition Newcastle	200.00

Total Expenditure	\$ 5,693.25
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**BALANCE** **\$ 11,410.76CR**



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

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Name Jean McGarry

Title Hon Treasurer

Date 10 September, 2018.