

Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance

Ordinary Meeting

MINUTES

Tuesday 18 August 2015, 6.00 – 8.00pm

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



Attendees:	Steve Dewar, Norbert Lica, Avril Lockton, Jean McGarry, Colin Mondy Rachelle McConville (LMCC)
Apologies:	Dot Seiffert, Christine Aus (leave), Susan Denholm (leave)

1 Welcome & acknowledgement of Country

Steve agreed to Chair the meeting in Dot's absence, and read the 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.

Dot's brother is seriously ill, and Dot has had to rush to Melbourne.

3 Conflict of interest

None noted.

4 Previous meeting

4.1 Ordinary meeting minutes, 16 July 2015 as circulated

MOTION: That the previous meeting minutes dated 16 July 2015, be confirmed as an accurate record.

Moved: Colin; Seconded: Jean. Passed unanimously.

4.2 Business arising from the minutes

- Avril has done some internet research about Suez environnement, including their business operations and suitability to sponsor the Alliance. It looks like they could be a possible sponsor organisation. Their environmental credentials look sound. Next step is to update the Sponsorship Proposal to tailor to them.
Colin suggested that local builders, engineers, surveyors, environmental consultants based in Lake Macquarie might be suitable targets as well.
ACTION: All - Bring ideas for possible sponsors to approach to the next meeting.
- Solar Power Australia have declined our sponsorship proposal. Not affordable for them, as they are a small company. Thank you Steve for chasing this up.

5 Correspondence

- Jill Hall's Grants Newsletter – sent to SN Key Contacts, highlighting relevant grant programs, 21 July
- Noted West Wallsend District SNG's Bunnings Sausage Sizzle with insurer, 27 July
- Stallholder application form submitted to Council for the Living Smart Festival, 27 July

- Letter from Alliance to local MPs requesting support for a ban on plastic bags in NSW, 4 August
 - Reply from Jodie Harrison MP, 7 August
 - Forwarded letters from Greg Piper's office, in response to previous letter from Toronto Area SNG:
 - Reply from Greg Hunt (Federal Minister for the Environment), 21 July
 - Reply from Mark Speakman (NSW Minister for the Environment), 28 July
- Submission to Council's Draft Waste Strategy, commending the strategy overall, and suggesting increased emphasis on public place recycling, support for businesses, and community engagement and education, 11 August
- Sustainable Neighbourhood News, 11 August
- Response to Greg Piper MP and 'Awards Australia', thanking Greg for the nomination for the Peabody Energy Environment and Landcare Award, but noting that we will not be entering this year, 13 August. After Awards Australia offered an extension and encouraged our application, a nomination was completed and submitted, 18 August. The Board are very happy with the application.

MOTION: That the correspondence be accepted

Moved: Jean; Seconded: Norbert. Passed unanimously.

6 Treasurers report

See report attached below.

MOTION: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Moved Jean; Seconded Norbert. Passed unanimously.

7 For discussion & decision

7.1 Welcome new member group: Cardiff Area Sustainable Neighbourhood Group.

Terms of Reference and initial Membership Register were circulated via email. Launch is set for 11 October, and the group are planning a Plant Swap event.

MOTION: That the Alliance officially welcomes the Cardiff Area SNG as a member group.

Moved: Colin; Seconded: Jean. Passed unanimously.

ACTION: Rachele will send them an email.

7.2 Plastic bag ban- responses from MPs so far, and an educational display

- Reply received from Jodie Harrison MP. Stating that she has contacted the Minister for the Environment on the Alliance's behalf, and will forward his response, 7 August
- Forwarded letters from Greg Piper's office, in response to previous (June) letter from Toronto Area SNG:

- Reply from Greg Hunt (Federal Minister for the Environment), 21 July, endorsing state based regulation for "practical solutions for the phase-down of lightweight non-biodegradable plastic bags". More information here: www.environment.gov.au/about-is/mem.

Also encouraged contact with Mr Steve Beaman, NSW EPA on 02 9995 6073 or stephen.beaman@epa.nsw.gov.au.

ACTION: Steve to contact the EPA to find out what their position is

- Reply from Mark Speakman (NSW Minister for the Environment), 28 July, stating support for "practical solutions to reduce the impact of plastic bags in the environment", being led by EPA. Also stated support for plastic bag recycling, and NSW gov announcement to phase out microbeads from personal care products by 2016, and a container deposit scheme by 1 July 2017.
- Responses received in response to an individual letter from Jean:

- Jill Hall MP (Federal) stating her support for a plastic bag ban, 1 August.
- Feedback and resources from Plastic Bag Free NSW Alliance.
 - They submitted a petition to State Parliament on 4 June with 12,500 signatures – moved by Bruce Notley-Smith, Member for Coogee. Tabled on 13 August and debated that day. (Email to Steve from Jeff Angel, Director and Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance)
- Preparation of display materials for Living Smart Festival, and other events.
 - Council is happy to provide the Alliance with some reusable bags to give away.
 - Norbert is collecting plastic bags for a display of the different stages of breakdown.
 - Hard copy of the existing petition.
- Would be good to develop a strategy to make an impact on politicians to demonstrate public support for a plastic bag ban. (eg along the lines of the #putyourbatout campaign for Phillip Hughes)... Eg put your (reusable) bag out on the front step.
- Next campaign action: Focus on local retailers in neighbourhood areas who are keen to go Plastic Bag Free. Utilise the SN network to approach suitable businesses in their area.

Businesses who agree to stop supplying free single use plastic bags to their customers will be promoted on our website and public displays as our community leaders.

Ask SN groups to approach suitable local businesses over the next month, so that we can find some businesses prior to the LSF.

ACTION: Rachelle to include a request for SN groups to approach their local businesses in the next 'Sustainable Neighbourhood News'
- Some discussion about redcycle – scrunchable plastic recycling available at Coles.
- Also agreement to seek a meeting with local (state) MPs following the Living Smart Festival.

8 Requests from member groups

- 8.1 Risk Assessment: 'Memories Making Mosaics' – Public consultation, Wangi Area SNG, 1 August**
Circulated and approved via email
- 8.2 Grant Application: 'Memories Making Mosaics' – Application to the NSW Government's Community Building Partnership Grants - Wangi Area Sustainable Neighbourhood Group.**
Application circulated and approved via email. Submitted 29 July 2015.
- 8.3 Grant Application: 'Improved pedestrian safety and access, Brighton Ave, Toronto' – Application to the NSW Government's Community Building Partnership Grants - Toronto Area Sustainable Neighbourhood Group.** Application circulated and approved via email. Submitted 6 August 2015.
- 8.4 Risk Assessment: Sustainable Neighbourhood gathering at Toronto Fire Station, Alliance, 22 August.**
Circulated via email. Approved.
- 8.5 Risk Assessment: Awabakal Nature Play Day, Dudley SNG, 5 September**
Circulated via email. Approved with comment from Steve to supply some insect repellent to protect against ticks.
- 8.6 Grant Expression of Interest: 'Memories Making Mosaics' – Wangi Area SNG – Submitted to the Stronger Communities Program (Charlton) (Aust Government Dept of Infrastructure and Regional Development.)**
Expression of interest submitted to Pat Conroy's office, 13 August 2015. The EOI will be considered by a Committee (for the Charlton electorate) in September. If successful, a detailed grant application will need to be submitted.

EOI circulated via email.

8.7 Risk Assessment: SN stall at Toronto Spring Fair, 17 October

Circulated via email. Approved.

9 Report backs from member groups

9.1 Wangi Area – Scarecrow Competition?

They are currently looking at running the Scarecrow Competition again this year, dates TBC.

9.2 Toronto Area – Tossers can be binners stage 2 – Fast food rubbish

GlubGrant application was unsuccessful. Now looking to have an event at Toronto Macdonalds to encourage putting fast food rubbish in the bin – low cost event. Possibly in Oct ish.

9.3 Health and Safety Training – scheduled for Wednesday 2 September. A representative from each SN group is required to attend. This session will be especially useful for new groups / members in Cardiff Area, Morisset and Peninsula, and Jewells Area.

9.4 Dora Creek – “A walk down flood lane”. Film night was very successful. Film itself very well received – great aerial photography and local interviews.

9.5 Community Safety Plan Workshop for Dora Creek residents, coming up later in August.

9.6 ANZAC murals – Have been meaning to seal the murals with anti-graffitti sealant, but it keeps raining! Research booklets are currently being drafted.

9.7 Redhead storm meeting – letter to Council has not yet received a response.

10 General business

None advised.

11 For information only

- Alliance website activity for July: 721 unique visitors, 4951 pageviews. Some extra stats from the website:

Top 5 Pages, Jul15	
390	home
74	caves-beach-swanssea-area
64	plastic-bag-campaign
63	the-alliance
62	a-walk-down-flood-lane
59	local-groups

Keywords (ie Words that people searched with and ended up on our site)

- Neighbourhood evening swap party
- www.superstreetsale.in
- valentine.org.au
- sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au
- Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance
- Sustainable Neighborhood Alliance
- support groups in west lake macquarie
- Picture of neighbourhood
- native fire retardant plants
- community development
- local filmmaker Elise Bailey

- lambton b colliery redhead nsw
- graffiti lake macquarie
- gardening groups lake macquarie nsw
- environmental volunteer lake macquarie area
- cardiff sustainability

- Rachelle on leave from Friday 18 September – Monday 5 October.

12 Next meeting date: Tuesday 15 September, 6-8pm

13 Meeting close

Attachment: Treasurer's Report

LAKE MACQUARIE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS ALLIANCE

GENERAL MEETING

19 June, 2015

TREASURER'S REPORT

1 July 2015 to 31 July, 2015



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

Balance **\$13,810.57**

RECEIPTS

Interest Credit	0.04c	
Total Receipts		\$ 0.04

EXPENDITURE

Chq 000037 Image – Morisset SNG	288.00	
Chq 000038 Image – Morisset SNG	359.45	
Chq 000039 PCYC - Morisset SNG	396.00	
Chq 000040 Tim Silverwod - MSNG	500.00	
Chq 000041 David Whitson – Eco Hlth Expo	100.00	
Chq 000042 Tree Frog Permaculture – Eco Hlth	120.00	
Chq 000043 Fairfax Media - Eco Hlth Expo	440.00	
Chq 000044 M. Downing	200.00	
Total Expenditure		\$ 2,403.45

BALANCE **\$11,407.16**

This is a true statement of accounts for the Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhoods Alliance for the period ended 31 July, 2015.

Signed _____

Name Jean McGarry

Title Hon Treasurer

Date 18 August, 2015.
