

# Sustainable Neighbourhoods Gathering

1 April 2023

Landcare and Sustainable Living Centre, umali barai-ku

16 attendees



## Reports from Sustainable Neighbourhood Groups

### Rathmines Area (Bruce, Diane and Dianne)

- Working with Council to improve amenity at Rathmines shops, including installation of bike racks, seating and other small infrastructure.
- Styles Point greening project with OzFish and Council. Focusing on potential salt marsh area. Expecting to start work soon.
- Rathmines Park Master Plan is now in place.
- Repair Cafe last year was great. Have another one planned for November 2023.

### Warners Bay Area (Gab)

- Members are involved in new Landcare site at Munibung Hill.
- Recommend signing up to [Munibung Hill Conservation Society's email newsletter](#)

- Advocacy for cat containment to legislate keeping cats indoors. Council is reluctant to date.
- Some members attended a PEP rally in Newcastle
- Lots of advocacy around the lake water quality
- Clean Up Australia Day
- Planning some projects around Circular Economy with Repair It, MHCS and Greater Charlestown SNG. Film screening 17 May, CE talk 11 May, and series of practical workshops in May / June.

#### **Waste to Art (Rosalynd)**

- Great volunteer team preparing for the Waste to Art exhibition October.
- Looking forward to engaging with lots of community members around waste, and opportunity for people to make something creative from waste items.
- Details will be on the website in coming weeks.

#### **Valentine Area (Gayle)**

- Group members have been involved in a local Landcare project and keen for some new volunteers.
- Successful verge planting at Ross Street, Belmont. Have received great feedback from passers-by, and noted there has been less litter in the area since.
- Good results from Clean Up Australia Day, though disheartening that there is always more litter to be removed.
- Considering project around household energy efficiency with some interest and ideas.
- Solar Sense project – Education for householders to help understand solar power options. Utilising lessons learned from Redhead EnergyWave project.

#### **Pelican Area (Greg and Paul)**

- Thank you to volunteers, and noted lots of support from other SN groups + thanks to Council and Alliance for support.
- Grateful for volunteer award nominations. Nice to recognise the work of volunteers and the SN and Landcare groups.
- Currently reviewing their Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan, and have held some community info stalls to seek input. Mediocre responses to date. Will seek some support to get a survey or similar out to more community members.
- Grannies Pool Landcare ongoing, and new group at Soldiers Road
- 2 Clean Up Aus Day events – one with marine rescue at Elizabeth Island, and another at Pelican foreshore.
- A number of members involved in Council's Local Adaptation Planning program for more than 5 years.
- Completed a letterbox drop of cat and doc brochures
- Regular work supporting local schools
- Plastic Free project with local businesses
- New volunteer recruitment

### **Five Bays (Mackenzie)**

- Blackalls Park greening project planting days and now maintenance.
- Recent simtable session went well with the HJO – very informative.
- Assisted to secure government funding for Woodrising Neighbourhood Centre (\$40k for solar panels) and Pamper Care (\$6k for operating costs)

### **Toronto Area (Steve and Joanna)**

- Also assist with Pamper Care project, and noted increasing community need.
- Clean Up Australia Day and fast food litter in Toronto to encourage people to recycle their fast food packaging. Demonstrated change from multinationals.
- Working to address graffiti problem, and considering possible grants for surveillance cameras, working with schools and Awabakal groups, as well as murals.
- Fennel Bay Landcare site
- Repair Cafe went well in March
- Plastic Free Cafes distributed 2000 reusable coffee cups
- Working to have representation at Toronto foreshore of Biraban and Threkheld and their work to record local language.
- Considering Terracycle options for recycling eg blister packs

### **Cardiff Area (Gavin)**

- Clean Up Aus Day site at Hillsborough Road bushland – removed 5 tonnes. Noted that rubbish has been getting older over the years, so there's less new rubbish. Some work from Crown Lands to deter illegal dumping.
- ANZAC wreath making workshop and Tool repair workshop coming up in April.
- Talking with Cessnock Council to provide Repair Cafe advice / mentoring
- Support for Landcare groups in Cardiff and Munibung Hill. Regular wildlife surveys – citizen science activities monitoring frogs, birds and insects.
- Wrapping up Pollinator Grant and looking for other opportunities to support local wildlife.
- Advocating around management of public planter boxes in Cardiff
- Noted Rotary's interest in ReLeaf activities

### **Tiny Forest (Anna)**

- Brief summary of Tiny Forest project and current plans.
- Video and more information at: <http://www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/tiny-forest.html>
- Aiming for May planting days, one with school, and one community day.
- Also seeking interest from 6-10 volunteers to become 'Tree Keepers' to assist with ongoing monitoring and maintenance at the site.

### **New faces (Aiden, Jim, Victor)**

A few new faces to welcome. They noted their interest in sustainability, gardening, and Landcare

## Group discussion

### Promotions

- Facebook – especially local discussion groups like Lake Mac locals etc
- Radio – ABC and 2NUR are usually willing to have you on air to chat
- Working with schools
- Word of mouth and face to face
- Accessing young people – influencers?

### Growing membership

- Making connections and partnerships with other organisations. Eg Toronto Aboriginal Services, U3A
- Embracing new people and offering meaningful roles
- Offer practical activities more than administrative roles
- Next Door – online platform, <https://au.nextdoor.com/>

### Sustainable Neighbourhoods Strategic Plan

Overview of 4 strategic objectives, and some achievements to date – [see presentation attached](#).

Group ideas for 2030 Strategic Plan:

- Media release about events, activities. Let everyone know what we do!
- Reach out to schools – give talks to them
- Across groups make publicity happen – especially big projects
- Talks with the community, schools, rotary, community groups
- Make new people feel welcome and included
- Follow through with new members

Reminder to complete the Volunteer Survey if you haven't already:

[surveymonkey.com/r/SustainableNeighbourhoods2030](https://surveymonkey.com/r/SustainableNeighbourhoods2030)

Closes Tuesday 11 April.