



NEWSLETTER

By the community. For the community.

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STOCKTON
COMMUNITY GROUP

JAN/FEB 2022

Highlights

- SCG became incorporated so we are a body that is recognised.
- Treasure Island Fund continues to grow, see website for details.
- Communications strategy presented to Council awaiting meeting with Lord Mayor.
- Follow us on Facebook. Stockton Community Group Inc.
- Grant applications- The SCG was successful in obtaining 2 grants. Thanks to PON for the projector which will be used at SCG meetings. Thanks to Port Waratah Coal Services (PWCS) for funding to purchase a printer & consumables to produce SCG newsletter and updates.
- PWCS - Site visit was undertaken by members of the SCG executive in December. The visit involved a site inspection and an update on the environmental processes / controls used at that the Port Waratah & Carrington sites.
- PON-SCG has advocated for more sand placement from dredging and sand removed from other harbour projects to be placed on Stockton Beach.
- Hunter Water continue to regenerate and restore the land in Stockton North. Access to the beach remains an issue that the SCG are advocating for.

President's Update

2021 has presented many challenges and has been a difficult year. It appears that the impact of a COVID world on our community is now a part of our ongoing story. This being said we are fortunate to live where we are, and I am constantly encouraged by the kind gestures of many. We are a mixed bag and hope that the best of each of us rises to the top in 2022. To those who came to our last meeting and showed our local politicians how much we love and are proud of Stockton I say 'Thank you'. It is this Spirit I hope we can continue into 2022. As our SCG motto reminds us 'By the community, for the community'. I know we get tired of trying at times but we won't give up and will continue to be a 'dog with a bone'. We will keep on reminding the 'powers that be' that we are here and I do hope you will join us. We will nag and nag and nag some more - just like a continual drip of water can split a rock.

What will we nag about?

1. Yes. The Beach!! Until we have sand and can keep it on our beach.
2. The Port of Newcastle's (PON) engagement with the SCG- after all we wear the cost of the harbour wall.
3. City of Newcastle (Council) engagement with the SCG so they not only see us but hear us and place us above politics.
4. Always improving air quality and less coal dust- yes we live near a coal loader but if the technology is there then let's make sure they use it.
5. Ammonium Nitrate Storage is still a major concern. We will continue to advocate with ORICA for an alternate storage site.
6. The fixing of the Holiday Cabins on Crown Land without appropriate permissions.
7. A community centre as a place to meet and to serve our community.
8. More of our community joining in with the SCG voice...yes hopefully that is you!

Finally, it is my absolute privilege to be president of this group. What an awesome bunch! I look forward to bumping into you in Stockton and please take the time to say hi and hope to see you at a meeting soon.

Thanks so much,

Jenny Allen, President

MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Tear off / Fill in / Place in named envelope with funds & drop to PPSurf Shop or check website for electronic payment details. Fee \$2.00 pp per year).

Name(s)

Email

Phone number

Address

Beach Working Party Update

The SCG has written to Deputy Premier Barilaro (before he became ex-DP) about independent legal advice we have received. This stated that Council could not apply for a sand mining licence while the NSW State Geological survey held the licence over the offshore sand location. They would need to transfer the licence to Council or give up the licence so Council could apply.

SCG received a reply under the direction of the new DP, indicating that the State expected Council to lay the groundwork for a State Significant Project (for nourishment) and to take ownership of any (future) Licence application.

Council have announced that the 4 options considered to support mass sand nourishment have now been completed and that the yearly dredge top-up of sand volumes emerged as the winner. It was not stated where this dredged sand would come from or who would deliver however, the cost of this option placed it as the first option. The other 3 options (headland, offshore reef and sand pumping) now appear unfortunately discarded.

We look forward to your support in 2022

Ian Taggart
Stockton Beach Working Party

Air and Water Quality

The SCG has a member on the EPA's Newcastle Community Consultative Committee on the Environment (NCCCE) that meets quarterly and includes industry, community representatives and the EPA. This is a forum for the community to raise concerns around pollution issues be they air, water, odour or noise. You can email the SCG with any issues you would like raised by our representative at these meetings and the minutes of the meeting are available on the EPA website. This role continues to be effective in raising key issues particularly in relation to industrial pollution and incidences

Importantly any community member can raise concerns with the EPA pollution line 131555. Please do this as the EPA relies on this information to act. They will ask you about the pollution concern, time of pollution and weather at the time.

Stockton has an air quality monitoring station that provides air quality information 24/7 and the data is included in a quarterly air quality report prepared by the EPA, discussed at the NCCCE meetings and available on the EPA website. You can access the air quality monitoring station data anytime on the EPA website or use the address below.

<https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/air-quality/air-quality-maps/live-air-quality-data-lower-hunter-and-central-coast>

The air quality monitoring station (located at the far western end of Flint St) measures the following parameters:

- PM 2.5 – particles smaller than 2.5 microns (the most dangerous for our health)
- PM 10 – particles smaller than 10 microns
- Ammonia
- Nitrous oxides
- Sulphur oxides
- Wind direction and speed

Remember the more calls to the EPA pollution the line on any pollution issue, the higher it is ranked and leads to quicker action by the EPA.

Keith Craig
Air and Water Quality Working Party

Key Dates

Wednesday 9/02/22 at 7:00pm Stockton Seniors Centre
(76 Mitchell St)

SCG Inc. meeting with guest Speaker from Stockton Historical Society.

Wednesday 9/03/22 at 7:00pm venue TBA
SCG Inc. meeting with a guest Speaker from Local Police Force.

Wednesday 6/04/22 at 7:00pm venue TBA
SCG Inc. meeting with a guest Speaker from Hunter Water.

[Please check Website/Facebook for details closer to date.](#)

We are

Incorporated Stockton Community Group (SCG Inc) run by volunteers that seeks to promote Stockton Community interest.

We do

Act as a lobby group to make sure our community's interests are heard focusing on:

- General street beautification.
- Ongoing air quality, coal dust, NO2 and PM2.5 (fine particles) emissions.

- Loss of beach amenity and continued shoreline losses (Beach Group).
- Future use of the crown lands foreshore areas.

We regularly invite outside speakers to talk to us on topics of interest.

SCG President: Jennifer Allen
SCG Treasurer: Ian Taggart

SCG Secretariat: Alison Rigby,
Melanie Taggart

Working Parties

Suburb Improvement, *leader vacant*

Beach Group, *leader vacant*

Air and Water quality, leader Keith Craig

Crown Land, leader Rainnie Carter