

Stockton Community Group Meeting Minutes: 9th February 2022

Meeting followed Covid Rules & guidelines as per NSW Health

1. Present and apologies

Present:

In attendance:

Ron Boyd, Julie Cook, Keith Craig, Jeanette Dib, Willow Forsyth, Ron Holbrow, Sue McIntire, Shelia Moran, Alan Newberry, Gina Owens, Margaret Raphael, Neil Raphael, Alison Rigby, Mark Rigby, Ian Taggart, Melanie Taggart, Barbara Whitcher, Jeanine Wilson, Michelle Watson, Ann Clark, Garry Cullinane, Irene Cooper, Ros Slattery, Lynda Parish, Heather Slight

Apologies: Jenny Allen, Boyd Allen, Tina Boyd, Sue Luke, Carol Percival, Cathy Burgess

Acknowledgement of Country

2. Declaration of conflicts of interest - Nil

3. Confirmation of Previous minutes - Previous minutes from Dec 2021 Moved by Sheila Moran seconded by Barbara Whitcher

4. Guest Speaker - Michelle Watson, Stockton Historical Society

The presentation provided an overview of the Historical Society & the work being undertaken. Highlighting the need for community to share information on the local area. Michelle answered a range of questions from the group & invited interested people come along to monthly Saturday drop in session at the Girls Guide Hall (located near the sailing club). Previous editions of "Stockton Through the Years" are available for sale as well as a new edition to be printed soon.

5. Outstanding Actions

Updates

1. Communication strategy update – A Communication strategy has been prepared and sent to City of Newcastle (council). This advocates for a more streamlined, effective, and efficient strategy between the SCG, Council and the Stockton Community Liaison Group. A meeting will be held with Council in the next few weeks to discuss our recommendations. AR updated the group on the meeting with Council & Lord Mayor scheduled for March to discuss the communication strategy.

2. Publication of Newsletter – MT thanked all those who helped create content, print & deliver the first newsletter for 2022. Please let Melanie know if anyone has items for next newsletter due beginning of April.

3. *Crown Land* - feedback for the Crown Lands management plan. In April 2021 the SCG held focus groups of members to discuss possible Crown Land uses. Responses & feedback were collated to create a picture of improvements to crown land on Stockton. In particular the area, reference no 79066 Pitt St, reserve, and Caravan Park, where SCG members overwhelmingly voted for the need for showers and taps at Little Beach. A request has been sent to Council to upgrade the area

AR updated the group that Council will meet with SCG to discuss the location for tap and Shower on Feb 24th. It was suggested that a toilet block could be also be located at this spot. (LP) This will be discussed with council on 24/2

6 Standing Items

Standing Agenda Items:

6.1 Treasurers Report –

Club Account \$4209.00

Treasure Island \$2515.00

Working Party Reports. (if meeting held)

6.2 Stockton Beach inclusive of Newcastle CMP

(Leader of this group is vacant, please contact SCG if interested in this position.)

Ron Boyd provided the following information

- Port of Newcastle have submitted a new Sea Dumping Permit application to Australian Department of Environment for dredging and dumping from Newcastle harbour.
- Other stakeholders including Stockton Community Group, City of Newcastle, NCCDC, and DPIE also made submissions. Application and submissions were sent for external technical review.
- On the basis of review, the permit application was not approved, and PoN were requested to provide additional justification and technical information.

6.3 Air Quality & Environment – Ammonium Nitrate Storage Kooragang Island/NCCCE

Keith Craig

Recorded atmospheric sulphur levels have decreased due to ships using lower sulphur fuel.

PM 2.5 (the smallest particle size) ammonium nitrate emissions has been addressed by Orica and they will be installing new filters on the prill tower. This will significantly reduce these emissions.

6.4 Stockton Community Environment

(Leader of this group is vacant, please contact SCG if interested in this position.)

Cleanliness and pigeon droppings in Stockton IGA arcade and flooding of car park are being investigated by Jeremy Bath (CEO of Council). Will be followed up by SCG in meeting with Lord Mayor in March.

6.5 Stockton Community Liaison Group

Barbara Whitcher

- At the last SCLG meeting on 9 December, our Stockton representatives again stressed the importance of ensuring the negative impact of the Breakwaters and PoN dredging on Stockton beach would feature in the 2022 CMP; this was taken up by CN as an Action Point. CN was also asked to provide a more detailed response to the SCLG regarding the triggers for sand scraping. A further request for this information had been made to Philippa Hill that day.
- The Deputy Premier visited Stockton beach recently with the Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes, Deputy Lord Mayor (and new Ward 1 Councillor) Declan Clausen and State MP Tim Crakanthorp following urgent requests for his continuation of the Stockton Beach Taskforce. He was shocked by the state of the beach and supportive of the proposed action but at this stage has not actually offered the “big bucks” needed for beach restoration.
- Councillor Clausen and Federal MP Sharon Claydon have recently been discussing the role that the Commonwealth can play in sand acquisition for Stockton. Sharon Claydon had already been keeping the relevant Government Minister informed over the past few years.

More information can be provided on request.

7. Correspondence - list available upon request

8. General Business and Business without notice

- 1) Willow Forsyth’s comments on Coastal Inundation Assessment by Bluecoast Consulting Engineers. More information can be provided on request.
 - Hazard assessment model outputs included estimates of depth but not velocity of waves inundating Stockton from storm surge overtopping events. It is incomplete without velocity as the speed of the wave is critical for estimating potential damage and thus exposure risk.
 - The model uses an assumption of "significant wave height" being the estimated 40% biggest waves. However, if the biggest wave is 2x that, then the damage from that may be disastrous. Why not estimate the biggest wave from each major class of events.
 - The model outputs were only for 1% AEP (1 in 100 ARI) events. If a big wave in a 2% (1 in 50 ARI) event can cause significant damage, isn't that important to know. What is the most frequent event where the biggest wave is expected to inundate Stockton and to what depth and with what velocity (speed and force).

Question from audience: Is there an emergency plan for Stockton in case of a Tsunami?

Reply: SES website provides best advice on how to be prepared for tsunami and more information can be found on City of Newcastle Flood Emergency Sub Plan on SES website. Also BOM will have warnings for tsunami.

2) Inquiry as to why toilet blocks are closed so early, as public areas are still in high use by community until 9pm. To be followed up with council.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm

Next Meeting 7:00pm March 9th 2022, Venue: Senior Citizens Centre, 76 Mitchell St Stockton

Speaker: Senior Constable Darren Fleming, Crime Prevention Team