

Acceptance speech SCG Inc. Jan 2023

Alison

We accept this award on behalf of the SCG Inc. in recognition of 11 years of advocating for the Stockton Community.

Stockton Community Group is incorporated community group of approx. 160 financial members (\$2 membership fee). We meet every second Wednesday of the month. In the past we invited speakers such as PON, police force or prospective counsellors who stood at for the last Council election, always makes a lively debate. We have an executive of 8 members and 4 working parties

The four working parties are:

- Suburban /Shopping centre
- Crown Lands
- Air quality & EPA / Kooragang
- Beach

It is a privilege to follow in the footsteps of those that previously held this position. Past Presidents Kate Johnson and Jenny Allen who've worked tirelessly to ensure Stockton residents are key stakeholders in decisions impacting the community. Thanks to the SCG Inc. executive for their continued support and the working groups they coordinate. Also thanks to long time members Ron Boyd, Keith Craig, Willow Forsyth, Ron Holbrow & Barbara Whitcher for their continued work.

Over to Melanie to talk about the achievements and challenges of 2022

Thank you Alison, and thank you Lord Mayor for this Award.

Our achievements this year have been the

The Red Line Rally, over 1500 people lined the Stockton Break water wearing red t shirts, carrying huge banners that stated the 7 steps required to achieve MSN. We also asked the State Government to step up and fix the problem they have caused. We recorded drone footage which we supplied to local TV and newspaper, so we got good media coverage

This was followed up by a mass letter writing campaign. According to Pro Bono advice we received from 2 lobbyists, the best way to attract the attention of Politicians (both present and shadow) is mass letter writing. So we placed posters around town and delivered flyers to every household in Stockton to inform all residents of our campaign.

Thirdly we ran an art competition, I Love Stockton Beach, to promote Stockton Beach in a positive light. It was a great success we had over 60 entries. It revealed the wealth of talent that exists in our community and the love and respect the community has for their beach.

Lastly, we put on a Christmas party and we were told it was pretty good! We had the use Stockton Surf club as a venue, had a member do the catering and were entertained by a local band that had written a song about the plight of our beach for our I Love Stockton Beach competition. What fun! And what a great community again...

And now onto the challenges..

It is very hard to keep the momentum going in the community, the problem of Stockton beach has been going on for a long time...people are tired of hearing about ...and the politics that it involves.

As a consequence, we are always actively recruiting new members to share the load.

It is also hard to keep the Community united in one voice, everyone has their own ideas and solitons!! Too easily shared on social media.

Another challenge is to encourage community stakeholders to step up and be good community members with a social conscience and not just give up Grants!

So what for 2023? Sadly, another rally leading up to the next State election. Maybe up at Corroba oval where the land is disappearing at an alarming rate, Keeping going with the writing campaign to make sure our voice continues to be heard and maybe another Christmas party to celebrate our achievements!!??

Finally, thanks to our members who attend meetings, deliver newsletters, and volunteer their time. Here is to another 11 years of the Stockton Community Group Inc.