



By the community.  
For the community.

Summer / December 2024

StocktonComGroup@gmail.com | stocktoncommunitygroup.com.au | Find us on

#LessTalkMoreSand

#SaveStockton2295

#StandWithUs2295

#TellUsTheTimeline



Alison Rigby & Lindy Nisbett,  
Co-Presidents

highlights

Congratulations to local architect Jo Bastian, Bastian Architecture on the multiple awards received this year for Olive Tree House, Pembroke St, Stockton.

Awards include the Australian Institute of Architecture NSW 2024 Award for Sustainable Architecture, AIA Newcastle 2024 Award for Residential Houses (NSW) and Commendation in the Houses Magazine Awards for New house under 200m2. The house was also selected to be included on the NSW Planning Housing Good Design for Housing Map. We think this may be a first for Stockton!



Olive Tree House, Pembroke St.  
Photo by Katherine Lu

key dates

**MEETING DATES 2025**

Meetings held at Stockton Surf Club  
7:30pm

- 12th February - Ward 1 Councillors update
- 9th April
- 10th September
- 12th November

## FERRY CANCELLATIONS

The cancellation of ferry services on Friday 25th October was the latest barb in the appalling treatment of residents by Keolis Downer & Transport NSW.

While the Stockton Ferry trip maybe a delightful 3 minutes journey for visitors, it is a vital mode of transport for the Stockton Community & commuters from the region to access work, school and health care. The general disregard for users is shameful. While buses may provide an alternative how did people with bikes and pets get home?

In addition to the scheduled timetable changes, there has been a marked increase in services being cancelled without notice. For example on Tuesday 1st October the ferry service from Stockton stopped at 9:10am until 10:10am without prior warning and no alternate transport offered. This resulted in residents being late for work, missed one-off medical appointments and connection to buses and trains. Unfortunately this isn't a one off incident with a number of similar random changes to scheduling happening in recent weeks.

The ferry service is fast becoming another unreliable, unsafe form of transport in the area.

The issues associated with Keolis Downer staff facilities at Queens Wharf are understood, however the impact on residents who use this service regularly are being ignored. Of specific concern is cancellation of the 10:15pm Monday - Friday service from Queens Wharf to Stockton. There is now a one-hour break from 9:30pm - 10:30pm. This has raised safety concerns for commuters and ferry staff. With the west end of Queens Wharf now abandoned the ferry terminal and enclosed shelter has become a poorly lit and isolated area of disrepair with residents experiencing anti-social behaviour.

The NSW Government's recent announcement of an additional 500 homes to be built on the former site of the Stockton Center touted the area as having good public transport links to Newcastle and beyond. Friday's disruption once again belies this claim.

### we are

Stockton Community Group Inc. (SCG Inc.) are a not-for-profit organisation run by volunteers that seek to act and promote Stockton Community Interests

SCG Inc. Co-Presidents: Alison Rigby & Lindy Nisbett

SCG Inc. Secretariat: Vacant

SCG Inc. Treasurer: Lindy Nisbett

### working parties

Suburb Improvement & Crown Land: Carolyn Bailey

Air & Water Quality: Keith Craig

Beach Group: Alison Rigby

SCG Inc Executive: Jo Bastian, Alan Newbery, Ian Taggart, Vic Turrin

Please see SCG Inc. website for membership details:

[www.stocktoncommunitygroup.com.au](http://www.stocktoncommunitygroup.com.au)

# CLEANER AIR FOR STOCKTON ORICA PRILL TOWER PROJECT

The Stockton Community Group is pleased to see Orica's Prill Tower Emissions reduction project is completed and operational.

It's been a long road following community complaints to Government and Orica in the early 2000s concerning air pollution on Stockton, to the major particle characterisation study carried out by ANSTO and the CSIRO funded by the EPA in 2014/15. This study was a result of concerns raised by the Newcastle Community Consultative Committee on the Environment (NCCCE). SCG member, Keith Craig was a driving force on the NCCCE committee on this issue and was involved in the Project Advisory Group for the study.

The study outcomes clearly showed elevated levels of dangerous PM2.5 particles at the Stockton Air Quality Monitoring Station due to emissions of ammonium nitrate from the prill tower. The EPA required Orica to undertake a Pollution Reduction Project. This led to a major study into suitable technology to reduce emissions and finally in 2024 the



*Pictured: EPA, Orica & Lindy Nisbett SCG Inc. at the official opening. Photo supplied by Orica*

installation of a scrubber onto the prill tower.

We thank Keith for his tireless voluntary work on this project and look forward to data showing the ongoing performance of the scrubber in reducing PM2.5 emissions.

You can check air quality in Stockton any time via the NSW Government website: <https://www.airquality.nsw.gov.au/lower-hunter/stockton>

## SMART (SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS & RECYCLING TECHNOLOGY)

Alberto Nogues presented to the SCG September meeting on the SMaRT program of work. With discussion on potential involvement of Stockton residents in the development of micro-factories for the recycling of fabric, glass, electronic waste etc. Further information about SMaRT can be found at: <https://www.smart.unsw.edu.au/>

Next steps would be to engage with Newcastle Council and relevant industry partners to gauge interest and feasibility. Alberto will lead a small working group.

Anyone interested in being involved in this project can contact Alberto via email: [stocktoncomgroup@gmail.com](mailto:stocktoncomgroup@gmail.com)

## STOCKTON CENTRE HOUSING PROPOSAL

NSW Government has announced a proposal to build 500 homes on the former Stockton Centre site at North Stockton. SCG inc has written to Tim Crakanthorp to express support for improved housing availability and affordability and to highlight infrastructure needs in terms of schools, public transport and traffic management.

Any planning needs to encompass the Rifle Range housing project, Stockton Centre Proposal & Fort Wallace over 55s defence housing proposal. Each development cannot be viewed in isolation. Areas of concern include the impact on roads & transport in Stockton & across Kooragang. Increased numbers of people using limited amenities & accessing parks & beaches. As well as pressure on Health Care service and schools.

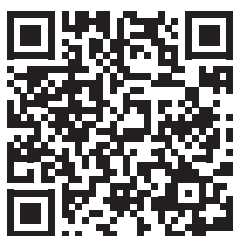
### erosion update



**N end of seawall May 2017**  
(Photo courtesy of Prof Ron Boyd)



**N end of seawall September 2024**  
(Photo courtesy of Prof Ron Boyd)



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Make sure you are following  
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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We need volunteers to help distribute the Newsletter, if you have some time to help please email SCG Inc.

[StocktonComGroup@gmail.com](mailto:StocktonComGroup@gmail.com)

