

## Stockton Community Group Inc. Annual General Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024

**Chair:** Alison Rigby and Lindy Nisbett

**Venue:** Stockton Surf Club. Pitt St, Stockton

**Minutes:** Carolyn Bailey

**1. Meeting Opened:** by Alison Rigby at 7.35 pm with Acknowledgement of Country

**Present:** Carolyn Bailey, Scott Brooks, Garry Cullinane, Willow Forsyth, Alison Rigby, Ian Taggart, Vic Turrin, Ron Boyd, Tina Boyd, Jo Bastian, Lindy Nisbett, Mark Rigby, Julie Cook, Mike Hocking-Gill, Lloyd Davies

**Apologies :** Barbara Whitcher, Jeanette Dib, Alan Newbery, Rosemary Waters, Keith Craig

**2. Declaration of conflict of interest:** nil declared

**3. Confirmation of previous Annual General Meeting minutes held:** 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 Accepted: Willow Forsyth, Seconded: Gary Cullinane

**4. Presidents' Report:** report circulated with Agenda

Key achievements highlighted:

- Summer campaign to improve public toilets at ferry/playground.
- Ward 1 Councillors Forum (August meeting).
- Continued media profile for SCG Inc issues and actions.
- Installation of scrubbers at Orica.
- Beach sand re-nourishment action.
- Continued liaison with City of Newcastle Council through attendance at community events.

**5. Treasurer's Report:** report circulated with Agenda

Income \$4351; EFY balance: \$4661; Current balance: \$3160

- Primary costs have been the quarterly newsletter and website management.
- Ongoing costs and potential revenue streams discussed.
- Proposal to increase yearly membership fee from \$2 to \$5 discussed.  
Proposal Accepted by: Willow Forsyth, Seconded by Garry Cullinane

**6. Election of Executive Committee for 2025**

Call for nominations opened in October and closed November 2024

**Nominees:**

Co-Presidents: Alison Rigby and Lindy Nisbett

Public Officer: Ian Taggart

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Vacant

Executive Members: Jo Bastian, Vic Turrin, Keith Craig, Carolyn Bailey, Garry Cullinane, Mike Hocking-Gill

All nominees accepted without challenge.

Lindy and Alison expressed a sincere thank you for the contribution of Alan Newbery who has stepped down as an Executive Member, with special note of his work on the Stockton Art Competition.

Special thanks were also expressed for SCG Inc member Jeanette Dib for her significant contribution to the Summer Campaign and advocacy for improvements to the shopping precinct.

## 7. Other Business

**7.1: New Scrubbers for Orica:** Lindy Nisbett reported on the official opening of the scrubbers on the prill tower at Orica. The scrubbers aim to reduce air pollution by 95%. Thank you and acknowledgement to Keith Craig for his advocacy through the Orica Community Liaison Group in achieving this important step for the health of local residents.

**7.2 Coastal Management Plan and Program:** Ron Boyd provided an update

- Limited action in recent months from this group, with off-shore sand renourishment site research continuing. An update from NC is due 28<sup>th</sup> November.
- NSW Government has purchased a portable dredge to be based at Swansea Channel, with dredged sand to be deposited along Blacksmiths Beach and Belmont coast line.
- The availability of a state-owned dredge should benefit future sand renourishment plans for Stockton.

**7.3 Stockton Community Liaison Group:** discussion on how the group was formed and member selection. The SCLG is NC managed and led. Community members initially made application to join. The group has since evolved with other stakeholders including SCG Inc invited to participate.

**7.4 Recycling and Waste Management:** SCG Inc executive members met with Alberto Nogues to explore opportunities following Alberto's presentation at the October SCG meeting. Update to be provided in early 2025.

**7.5 Port of Newcastle Community Group:** Lloyd Davies provided an update.

- PoN has received approval for a container terminal to diversify the port's business. The container terminal will require significant rail infrastructure improvement, as rail will be the primary mode of distribution over road haulage.
- A Hydrogen Hub is not a focus for PoN with the withdrawal of Origin from the proposal.
- PoN has limited interest in progressing a cruise ship terminal choosing to focus its business model on freight.

**7.6 Issues for 2025:** The three Ward 1 Councillors have accepted an invitation to attend our February 2025 meeting. Discussion on issues to be raised with the Councillors included:

Ferry scheduling, unplanned disruptions and safety concerns - Upgrade of public amenities, plans and timeframes - Accessible community meeting space - Rawson Reserve Trust usage and transparency - Pedestrian safety - Electric vehicle charging stations – Seafront walkway – Holiday Park Plan. Issues to be forwarded to Councillors prior to next meeting.

**8. Meeting closed:** at 8:25 pm, with Lindy and Alison thanking all for attending, with particular thanks and acknowledgement to Stockton SLSC for their ongoing support and use of their venue, and Danielle from Prism Design for her continued contribution to the development and design of the newsletter and other SCG promotional material.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025, Stockton Surf Life Saving Club at 7:30 pm