

# Stockton Community Group Inc. Annual Report 2024

(October 2023 - November 2024)

## **2024 SCG Inc. President & Executive group:**

**Co- Presidents:** Alison Rigby & Lindy Nisbett

### **Executive Group**

Carolyn Bailey, Jo Bastian, Keith Craig, Alan Newbery, Lindy Nisbett (Treasurer), Alison Rigby, Ian Taggart (Public Officer), Vic Turrin.

As an Incorporated body, the group required an executive group with a minimum 7 members.

Special thanks to Alan Newbery who is stepping down from his role on the executive this month.

## **Presidents Report - (Alison Rigby & Lindy Nisbett)**

- 5 meetings in 2024 Meeting minutes are available on the SCG Inc Website: <https://stocktoncommunitygroup.com.au/meetings/>
- 4 Newsletters (electronic and print – delivered to 2,000 households in Stockton)
- Membership - 84 members
- Represented SCG Inc at Marine Rescue Stockton Building opening; CoN Citizenship award ceremony; CoN International Womens Day breakfast; Newcastle Sister City Ube Japan delegates welcome.
- Maintained media profile - representatives of the group were interviewed by the Newcastle Herald, NBN media & ABC radio. Highlighting issues associated with Stockton Beach erosion, air pollution from Kooragang and Stockton Centre housing proposal.
- Members of SCG Inc. continue to sit on community consultation groups for Port of Newcastle, Newcastle Coal Industry Group, Port Waratah Coal Services and Orica.
- Successful Summer campaign lobbying City of Newcastle Council to improve public toilet amenities. (See Suburb Improvement & Crown Lands report for more information)
- Successful in obtaining Federal members' Volunteer Grant \$1485 for CPR first aid course (to support meetings & events).
- August meeting - attendance of candidates for Ward 1 City of Newcastle Council election answered questions on issues impacting Stockton.
- Supported residents raising issues on telecommunication services to Federal member resulting in a review and promise of improvements.
- Informed State member of issues with ferry service and requested investigation.
- Opened discussions on recyclables and waste management in Stockton.

## **Treasurers Report - (Lindy Nisbett)**

Bank balance at 30 June 2024 **\$4,661.37**

Total Income: \$4,351.00

(Member fees/donations \$166, NCIG Grant \$3,000, Federal Grant CPR training \$1,185)

Total Expenses: \$4,169.03

(Incorporation Fee \$54.24, Newsletters \$1,916.60, Website \$1,584.00, Canva \$164.99, Summer campaign Postcards \$449.20)

Proposal - that the Treasurers Report be accepted

Proposal - that the annual membership fee be raised from \$2 to \$5, to cover basics costs such as Incorporation fees and registration of web domain name.

The full 2024 Treasurers report is available on SCG Inc website <https://stocktoncommunitygroup.com.au/meetings/>

## **Suburb Improvement and Crown Lands Report - (Carolyn Bailey)**

Over summer, SCG Inc ran a successful campaign to champion the need for improved public amenities. The campaign empowered residents and visitors to advocate for family friendly and accessible toilets adjacent to the ferry and activity hub. This community action led to Newcastle Council announcing funding to upgrade facilities in the 2024/25 budget.

Throughout 2025, SCG Inc will continue to monitor progress on the upgrade and advocate with councillors for further funding opportunities, including greater transparency of how funds in the Rawson Reserve Trust are managed and used.

## **Air & Water Quality Report - (Keith Craig)**

SCG Inc. is very pleased to see Orica's Prill Tower Emissions reduction project is completed and operational. It's been a long road to this stage following community complaints in the early 2000s concerning Prill tower emissions to the major particle characterisation study carried out by ANSTO and the CSIRO funded by the EPA.

The outcomes of this study 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. This led to Orica undertaking a major study into suitable technology to reduce emissions and then the installation of a scrubber onto the Prill tower. We look forward to the ongoing performance of the scrubber in reducing PM2.5 emissions.

In March the NSW EPA confirmed the establishment of a new Hunter Environment Advisory Group to replace the NCCCE and Upper Hunter Air Quality Advisory Committee. The new group encompasses a larger region with reduced membership, requiring interested parties to participate in an EOI process. Unfortunately, the SCG Inc nominee was unsuccessful in joining the group, but continues to liaise with representatives on issues impacting the local area.

## **Beach Working Party (Alison Rigby)**

In October 2023 the NSW Government employed a sand dredger to replace 100,000 cubic metres of sand. Unfortunately, this was a pilot project, and we still await a timeline and plan from Dept of Public Works for future sand placement.

In June SCG Inc members attended an update on Stockton Beach presented by City Of Newcastle Staff & representatives of NSW Government departments.

Topics covered:

- Finalisation of the terminal protection at the southern end of the Mitchell Street seawall
- The transition from the terminal protection to rock bags that will extend to the central access way in front of the Pines
- Renewal of the Mitchell Street seawall
- Update on CMP action ownership

## **Future Directions for 2025**

- Maintain membership and communication with community
- Advocate for Beach protection & updated Coastal Management Plan
- Engage with council regarding plans for upgrade of amenities
- Monitor Crown Lands rezoning to ensure the community voice is heard & Crown Land is utilised in a manner that suits the needs of Stockton
- Ensure Ferry Timetable consistency & Ferry terminal Safety of residents
- Explore transparency of Rawson Reserve Trust Funding & use.
- Monitor Stockton Centre housing developments
- Monitor Traffic management on Kooragang
- Continue stakeholder engagement by ensuring SCG Inc. representation on community consultation groups

Once again, we would like to thank members for their support throughout the year. Providing community outreach by delivering newsletters and discussing the SCG Inc. Campaigns far & wide. We would also like to thank Prism Design for assistance with our newsletters and the Stockton Surf Life Saving Club for providing our meeting space.

Alison Rigby & Lindy Nisbett

(Co-Presidents SCG Inc.)