By the community. For the community.

STOCKTON COMMUNITY GROUP INC.

#LessTalkMoreSand

#SaveStockton2295

#StandWithUs2295

#TellUsTheTimeline

March 2026

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



February Meeting - Stockton Surf Life Saving Club (photo A Rigby)

PRESIDENTS UPDATE

Lindy Nisbett, President

Our community meeting on 18th February saw over 80 people attend to hear State Member Tim Crakanthorp speak on

- Beach replenishment;
- Stockton Ferry;
- Homelessness & Free Campers.

There were many questions with answers yet to come. It is important that local voices are heard by council and NSW government. All three topics are unfinished business!

Thank you to all who attended and showed an interest in these matters. We also thank the Stockton Surf Life Saving Club for the use of their hall for our meetings.





key dates 2026

MEETING DATES 2026

Meetings held at Stockton Surf Club 7:30pm

April 15th

September 16th

November 18th

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. President: Lindy Nisbett
SCG Inc. Secretariat: Vacant
SCG Inc. Treasurer: Amanda Plumsted
Suburb Improvement & Crown Land: Carolyn Bailey
Air & Water Quality: Keith Craig
Beach Group: Alison Rigby
Recycling Group: Ian Taggart
SCG Inc Executive: Garry Cullinane

Please see SCG Inc. website for membership details:
www.stocktoncommunitygroup.com.au

HOW TO CONTACT CITY OF NEWCASTLE

https://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/about-us/forms-and-publications/forms-and-permits/customer-request-form

Or you can call them on : **02 4974 2000**

OUR WARD 1 COUNCILLORS ARE:

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SCAN QR CODE

STOCKTON RECYCLERS

Ian Taggart

The objectives of this group are to reduce our waste footprint. One way is to make sure we use the council green and yellow bins. A more direct way is to reduce landfill from our supermarkets and coffee shops.

Stockton Recyclers have done three things of note recently:

1. We organized 'Clean up Stockton' day as part of the Clean up Australia initiative. We got 20+ volunteers on the day. Shout out to Lexies on the Beach (Lexies On The Beach) for providing coffee's afterward - much appreciated!!
2. We have started collecting (some) spent coffee grounds from Haze (http://www.haze.cafe) and taking it to our community garden for composting. Appreciate the extra Haze effort.
3. Our volunteers collect vegetable waste from our local IGA and also take that for composting (1 day a week - but looking to expand). Thanks IGA management/staff.

The group meet 1st Wed each month around 6pm at the Gladdy.

Find & follow on facebook: Stockton Recyclers

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Carolyn Bailey

Thank you to the residents, friends and families of Stockton and beyond who signed the NSW Legislative Assembly E-petition to Fix the Ferry. The petition closed on the 12th March, with over 2,700 signatories calling on the Minister for Transport to:

- Intervene and secure urgent repairs to both vessels and/or source alternate vessels to maintain service
- Facilitate planning and funding support for replacement vessels and future-proofing the service
- Review contractual arrangements with Newcastle Transport to determine capability of the private sector to deliver vital public transport

Although the petition is closed, the campaign for a reliable ferry service is not over. Tim Crakanthorp (Member for Newcastle) will present the petition to the NSW Parliament. With over 500 signatures, the Minister for Transport is now compelled to submit a report to Parliament addressing the actions requested.

Leasing of a replacement ferry by the government since January has been welcome short-term relief for the hundreds of residents and commuters that rely on the service to access work, education and healthcare. But what is the future of the ferry service?

Our ferries, the MV Shortland and MV Hunter were built 40 years ago. In 2017, operation of the service was transferred to Newcastle Transport (Keolis Downer) under a 10-year contract. Newcastle Transport is responsible for the repair and maintenance of the vessels, while Transport NSW own the vessels and are responsible for their future replacement.

During the last 18 months unplanned service disruption became common due to staffing and mechanical issues. The MV Hunter has been out of action since February last year due to mechanical failure, and was finally moved to Sydney for major repairs in December.

"The vessel has been found to have major corrosion damage with no timeframe given for its return to service"
- Tim Crakanthorp MP - 18th February 2026.

The NSW Government has a master plan for the Sydney ferry network (Sydney's Ferry Future, Modernising Sydney's Ferries. 2013), including electrification of the fleet by 2035. There is no such plan or commitment to the future of the Newcastle to Stockton ferry service. The people of Stockton and the Hunter deserve better.

The fight for the future of our ferry goes on!



TRANSPORT FOR NSW FERRY OFFICE RELOCATION PROJECT

Alison Rigby

In December 2025 members of the SCG Inc Executive met with City of Newcastle Staff working on the relocation project. CN staff provided an overview of the proposal & options for the staff amenities block. SCG Inc raised a number of concerns including

- Site lines from the ferry wharf to the car park
- Permanency of the building
- Exterior finishes & aesthetics of the building

Since the meeting in December, the design and approvals have been finalised, and the modular pre fabricated office has now commenced off site construction. An open tender for the site works to establish the new Stockton ferry office was released on 20 February 2026.


photo courtesy of CN

AMENITITES BLOCK AT THE SKATE PARK FERRY WHARF

Lindy Nisbett

Latest update from CN - Installation of the new toilet block at Stockton Active Hub is scheduled for April 2026. The demolition of the existing toilet block will be undertaken in May once the new facilities are available for use, so the community have uninterrupted use of amenities at the Active Hub. Communication will be provided to the community through a letterbox drop and on-site signage.

STOCKTON BEACH UPDATE

Alison Rigby

FUNDING

A number of concerns regarding timelines & funding for Stockton Beach sand nourishment were raised at the February Meeting. Please see the February meeting minutes for the detailed discussion: **stocktoncommunitygroup.com.au/meetings**

SAND SCRAPING

Beach scraping occurred in late February (City of Newcastle). The purpose of scraping at Stockton is to increase upper beach volume to better meet forecast storm demand. By placing sand higher on the beach ahead of significant weather events, the added volume acts as a buffer, reducing the likelihood of erosion scarps extending landward and exposing community assets.