



NORTHERN WYONG SHIRE GRAFFITI FORUM **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 28 JUNE 2011**

Present: Jillian Hogan, Services Manager, SRNC; Doug Vincent, Councillor, Wyong Shire Council; Emma Ward, Graffiti Removal Expert; Thelma McCue, Blue Haven Craft; John Carpenter, San Remo Tidy Towns; Gwen Gehan, Wallarah North Precinct/Blue Haven Craft; Gary Kwast, Gwandalan Lions Club; Bill Fletcher, Gwandalan Lions Club; Gordon and Pat Silk, Wallarah North Precinct, Tidy Towns, San Remo Community Garden; Ian Rumbel, Juvenile Justice; Andrew Whitbourne, Mannering Park Landcare and Tidy Towns; Edward Knight, Citizen.

Apologies: Sue Wynn, Councillor, Wyong Shire Council; Bill Symmington, Councillor, Wyong Shire Council; Trish Carlson, Warnervale Family and Community Centre; Martin Winterborn, Assistant Operations Manager, Lake Haven Shopping Centre; Neil Wynn, Mannering Park Precinct; Darren Webber MP, Member for Wyong; Doug Darlington, The Entrance Precinct Committee

Jillian Hogan opened meeting and welcomed everyone. Jillian recapped as follows:

Integrated Approach

Council and MP's – Writing of Graffiti Management Policy, Funding, Kits, Education, Posters

Community – Paint-outs, Graffiti removal, Letters to businesses and Council, Posters, Collecting information and Graffiti Clean-up Days

Businesses – Toukley, The Entrance, San Remo, Lake Haven

Police – Information for policy writing, Information sent to graffiti tag team @ The Entrance, PALS.

Jillian commented that it was good to have Police representation through Edward Knight. If have any information relating to graffiti attacks, offenders or similar email or send to Jillian and she will forward it onto Edward Knight.

Forum Principles

Four E's – Eradication, Engagement in Projects, Education and Enforcement

Aims of Forum = Responsibility, Report, Removal and Reward

UPDATES FROM LAST MEETING

Blue Haven Community Centre – Status of Lighting and CCTV Cameras

As reported in last minutes, the Council has recently received a grant for improving crime prevention strategies at this facility. In particular, CCTV will be installed to reduce requirement for static security guards. As part of this upgrade the level of lighting will be reviewed.

QUESTION FROM THE FLOOR: When is this going to happen?

Bulk Supply of Chemicals from Chamber

Andrew Whitbourne reported that advice had been received from Council that the arrival of bulk chemicals for Mannering Park was imminent. Andrew said these were particularly needed for the amenities block at Mannering Park Point which was covered with graffiti. He had been advised that the bulk chemicals will not include the strongest chemical "Shadowchaser" because of OH&S issues. However, supplies of the new "Black" remover have been ordered and will be provided. It was advised that the "Black" remover works very well on about 80% of graffiti as a single application solution. The other 20% will need the addition of So Safe "Red" or maybe "Green".

Gwandalan Spring Fair - 18 September 2011 – Lions Club

Although Council were not planning on attending the Fair due to limited staff resources, the Forum could still have a Graffiti Stall with information and flyers on graffiti topics and the community graffiti trailer on display. Gwen, Thelma and John offered to man the stall during the day and Lorna Dooner, Housing NSW had offered her services to man the stall for a few hours at a previous meeting. Suggestion of Emma doing a demonstration on how to remove graffiti – Emma will decide closer to the time.

Jillian to organise with Mark Izzard or Maree, Northern Lakes Regional Business Chamber to take trailer to Gwandalan on the day and return.

Use of CSO Workers in Removal of Graffiti

Discussion on Julie Vaughan's response to this question – it was felt that the question was not fully answered. Probation and Parole need to be involved in discussions. Jillian will continue conversations about the use of CSO workers with Julie.

Log of Statistics on Graffiti

Discussion took place on answer provided by Council which centred on their graffiti database. Edward Knight said even if statistics were obtained they would not be very reflective as only 10% - 20% of events were reported on.

Tree Planting

- This still needs to be pushed forward.
- Doug Vincent said Sparks Road at Warnervale has been badly hit by graffiti again and he has been talking with Trish Carlson at Warnervale Family and Community Centre in relation to tree planting along Sparks Road. Trish is talking to her staff and working on engaging the community to undertake tree planting. If community unable to do tree planting, Doug said a grant could be applied for and Council could be asked to donate shrubs.

Reporting Processes

- Much better system now we have Edward Knight on board.
- Allows activation and to "make it happen".
- Ed emphasised the need for photos and how important they were particularly in relation to convictions.

- The use of CCTV portable cameras will be good once they are in operation.

GRAFFITI MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Graffiti Management Strategy will be tabled at the 13 July Council Meeting and NOT 22 June as previously advised.

MOBILE CAMERAS

- Council advised that tenders will go out for provision of two mobile cameras plus 12 months monitoring 24/7 and relocation of cameras. Funds for these cameras will be taken from the \$10,000 allocated for graffiti education programs in Council's \$50,000 Community Initiative Funds.
- Doug Vincent said that he, Sue Wynn and Bill Symington had pushed through funds of \$100,000 to top up Council's graffiti budget.
- Funding granted to Northern Lakes Regional Business Chamber was for static cameras at Toukley and Budgewoi.

GRAFFITI ACTION DAY HELD ON 15 MAY 2011 – FOLLOW UP REPORTS

Warnervale - Emma Ward

- Sparks Road, Warnervale has been hit again – Emma said she will remove again.
- Pleasing to see shop at Kanwal which was covered in graffiti has been painted out by shop owner.

San Remo - Karen de Coque

- Still graffiti free.
- Shrubs are all still in place and growing.
- Jillian wrote a letter to shopkeepers thanking them for organising last month's meeting regarding graffiti vandalism and enclosed a package of useful information to help in their fight against graffiti.

Karen de Coque reported as follows:

- Unable to remove graffiti for first 2 weeks in June as it rained.
- On Tuesday 21 June, 5 young people painted the fence on the Cnr. Kallaroo Road and Goorama Ave.
- On Thursday 23 June, Karen met with Maree from Northern Lakes Regional Business Chamber and Gordon Silk at San Remo shops. They experimented with mixing chemicals (under So Safe instructions) to see if a better job could be done of removing the tags from the brick walls. The result was so much better by using the black chemical first, waiting 5 minutes then using the red chemical, waiting another 5 minutes then it was gurnied off. They also tried this method on the paling fences along Goorama Ave. This did slightly remove the tag, but not very effectively so Karen will keep working on this.
- On Tuesday 28 June, Karen door knocked residents along Goorama Ave armed with chemicals to reinforce the responsibilities of the community.
- Last weekend Karen noted another outbreak of graffiti. Photos were taken and sent to Jillian to report to Police.

- After a comment made to Maree regarding a young person helping remove graffiti around San Remo, Maree made contact with NBN who have expressed an interest in doing a story about the young people. Jillian to talk to Karen about this.

Maree, Northern Lakes Regional Business Chamber sent a report to Jillian as follows:

- The community graffiti trailer was used at San Remo shops on Thursday 23 June in regards to the pressure washer on the trailer not being strong enough to remove graffiti from some surfaces.
- Maree also enclosed before and after photos which showed the pressure washer is capable of removing graffiti from brick work.
- As reported in Karen de Coque's report above, Maree, Karen and Gordon Silk experimented with a combination of different chemicals on the brick work at San Remo shops and the chemicals were left on for different lengths of time. The result was very good.
- It is a process of trial and error and the result depends on the chemicals being used, the type of paint that is used for the tag and the length of time the chemical is left on the wall before being removed.

Mannering Park

Andrew reported that:

- The café at Mannering Park shops which had been covered in graffiti for years had finally been painted. The owner of the Bottle Shop is going to paint the side of his shop after seeing what a difference it has made to other shops.
- Lots of graffiti on fences and amenities block at The Point at Mannering Park. This was reported to Council but the Mannering Park Precinct got sick of waiting for them to come and remove it, so they removed themselves.
- Andrew and Neil want to emphasise how much easier the graffiti is to remove the next day rather than when 3-4 weeks old. Leaving the graffiti longer than a few days like WSC does then takes two to three times more effort and chemicals to remove which is another waste of community finances.

Blue Haven

- Discussion on graffiti at Blue Haven Community Centre. Comment made that this was the only community centre which has a Council employed Manager but no graffiti removed. Other community centres in the Shire generally clean off graffiti themselves.

COUNCIL

Response Time

Reported on above.

San Remo Entry Signs

- The two "Welcome to San Remo" signs located at the entries to San Remo are both in need of repair/replacement. A car ran into one sign and the other one had graffiti written on it which was not removed quickly enough and became etched into the sign. Council had promised to replace it which has not been done as yet.
- This sends a poor message at both entrances about San Remo. Discussion by Forum members:
 - when will the sign be replaced

- the community would like the graffitied sign to be taken away until it is replaced.
- Doug Vincent said a Service Request Number is required from Council. Jillian to ring Council to obtain.
- Jillian to email Doug with Service Request Number and background about signs and Doug to follow up and get sign replaced as soon as possible.

Presentation of Certificates

- Thelma and John were presented with GOATS Family Festival Certificate of Appreciation for manning the community graffiti trailer at the GOATS Family Festival on 3 April 2011.
- Emma was presented with First Aid Certificate and Certificate in OH&S processes.

NEW FUNDING/INITIATIVES

- Kind donation of \$100 Bunnings Voucher from Housing NSW (thank you very much Lorna). Jillian asked for any ideas on what to use voucher for. Emma suggested Paint Removal Wipes at \$5 per packet – these wipes worked well in removing graffiti quickly (the day after). Any other suggestions welcome – email Jillian.
- There is still \$1700 in Graffiti Forum bank account. All Forum members present agreed to purchase another 20 community buckets. Any other suggestions welcome – email Jillian.

Murals – Budgewoi and San Remo

- A proposal to WSC for Crime Prevention Funding was successful for a grant of \$8000 to do 2 murals – one at Budgewoi shops and the other at San Remo shops.
- Jillian has been in contact with a community artist, Anthony Williams from Avoca, who is happy to do the work and engage the community in the process.
- Next step is obtaining permission:
 - 1) From the owner of the shop at San Remo which has a brick wall where mural will be painted (at western end near phone box). Emma has a contact for owner and she will pass onto Jillian.
 - 2) Contact Phil Heaton, President of the Budgewoi, Buff Point, Halekulani Precinct Committee re Budgewoi mural.
- Doug Vincent asked if there would be any input from the community. Jillian said the role of the community artist is to engage the community in the design of the mural. All community members including P & C Associations, Scouts, Guides, Precinct members and other groups will have opportunity for consultation and have input into decision as to what will go on the walls.

Restoring Harmony Project

- Last December, Jillian applied for a grant through the Community Builders Funding Program. The submission was successful and the project is called “Restoring Harmony”. The funding received is \$155,000. Clap, cheer and hooray!!
- The project aims to reduce graffiti vandalism in the Wyong Shire and will feed directly into the good work of the Northern Wyong Shire Graffiti Forum and engage young people and community members.

- The funding will employ one person for 25 hours per week over 2 years and develop new initiatives plus roll out some of the initiatives already in place in some areas across the Shire.
- Congratulations were extended to Jillian for the work she did in putting together the submission and for all her great work on behalf of the Northern Wyong Shire Graffiti Forum.

Trailer at Lake Haven Shopping Centre

- A request has been received from Martin Winterborn to display the community graffiti trailer at Lake Haven Shopping Centre for promotional purposes. Martin said the trailer would need to be manned for best impact. Discussion followed – hopefully organise in the near future.

Graffiti Shop in Gosford

- Gwen Gehan asked about a Graffiti Shop in Gosford which sells everything you need to become a graffiti writer. This was discussed at the Forum's October 2010 meeting. Jillian said Gosford Council would be contacted as to why the shop was selling graffiti apparatus and what can be done about it.

Ian Rumbel, Juvenile Justice reported that the first mediation conference where the consequences for action for a young person would be to clean off graffiti using the community graffiti trailer would be held this week.

Task List

Jillian

- Organise with Mark Izzard or Maree to take trailer to Gwandalan for Gwandalan Spring Fair on 18 September 2011.
- Continue conversations with Julie Vaughan about the use of CSO workers in removal of graffiti.
- Talk to Karen de Coque re NBN (via Maree) expressing an interest in doing a story about young people.
- San Remo Entry Signs – contact Council for a Service Request Number and then email Doug Vincent with the number and background about signs so he can get replaced.
- Purchase 20 community buckets.
- Any more suggestions for use of Bunnings Voucher and rest of Graffiti Forum bank account (after purchase of community buckets).
- Murals at Budgewoi and San Remo – obtain permission from owner of shop at San Remo and talk to Phil Heaton.
- Contact Gosford Council re graffiti shop in Gosford selling graffiti apparatus.

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 26 JULY 2011
AT 4 PM
AT SAN REMO NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE