



NORTHERN WYONG SHIRE GRAFFITI FORUM **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 30 AUGUST 2011**

Present: Jillian Hogan, Services Manager, SRNC; Emma Ward, Graffiti Removal Expert and Adviser; Thelma McFarlane, Blue Haven Craft; John Carpenter, San Remo Tidy Towns; Gwen Gehan, Wallarah North Precinct/Blue Haven Craft; Jean Tyler, Bamboo House; Mark Izzard, Unique Security Group; Tricia Carlson, Warnervale Family and Community Centre; Coral Burnham, Mannering Park Progress Association; Ruth Punch, Toukley Branch Labor Party; Ian Rumbel, Juvenile Justice; Bill Symington, Councillor, Wyong Shire Council; Sue Wynn, Councillor, Wyong Shire Council; Doug Vincent, Councillor, Wyong Shire Council, Lynne Dickson, ELCO International.

Apologies: Andrew Whitbourne, Mannering Park Landcare and Tidy Towns; Martin Winterborn, Assistant Operations Manager, Lake Haven Shopping Centre; Julie Vaughan, Wyong Shire Council, Doug Darlington; The Entrance Precinct

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.

Forum Principles

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

Aims of Forum = Responsibility, Report, Removal and Reward

UPDATES ON INITIATIVES

Graffiti Management Plan

- Bill Symington reported that this had been signed off.

WSC Resident's Buckets/Gwandalan Spring Fair – 18 September 2011

- Bill Symington reported that he had been hopeful of organising for some sort of system to be available at the Gwandalan Spring Fair to check resident's details to enable distribution of Council graffiti buckets to interested residents. This is not possible. However, he will have 6 or so buckets on display for advertising and information and a structure to take names and details of residents who want a bucket.

- Discussion took place on display of community graffiti trailer at Gwandalan Spring Fair. It was felt that this would be good publicity for the trailer and Bill offered to pick up the trailer from Unique Security the day before the Fair, take it to the Fair and return.

Community Buckets

- Jillian reported that 20 buckets had been purchased for use by the community.

Murals – San Remo and Budgewoi

- Public consultation meetings held at San Remo and Budgewoi.
- Jillian showed photos of progress of mural at San Remo shops from “before” photos of graffitied wall to wall being white washed by community artist, Anthony Williams to nearly finished painted mural which looks terrific. There were 80 plus people involved in the process over 4 days.
- Approximately 32 people attended initial planning meeting at Budgewoi. Planning and sketching of mural ongoing.
- Sue Wynn asked where funds obtained to pay for murals – did it come out of \$100,000 Council has allocated to support graffiti initiatives. Jillian said that no Council funds have been used in any of the projects the Forum has undertaken. It was Jillian’s understanding that the funding for the murals was a grant of \$8000 obtained through WSC Crime Prevention Funding. Sue said we could look at continuing the painting of murals as a project in other areas of the Shire using funds from the \$100,000 Council has allocated.
- As well as the \$8000 grant, San Remo Neighbourhood Centre and the Budgewoi, Buff Point, Halekulani Precinct have donated \$500 each. Doug Vincent said he thought Budgewoi Vision still has \$1000 set aside for a community mural in Budgewoi. Doug to chase up.

Tree Planting – Warnervale

- Trish Carlson , Warnervale Family and Community Centre has obtained 50 trees from Pioneer Dairy Site which Doug Darlington kindly organised. Six Year 6 students from Warnervale Public School’s Garden Club have offered to help with the planting.
- Trish has asked Doug Vincent if Council could help with digging holes. Jean Tyler has a post hole digger which she offered the use of.
- Sue Wynn suggested that Council’s Landcare Officer be contacted before planting trees to check species of trees and to ensure the trees are planted correctly.
- Sue offered to contact appropriate person at Council the next day and ask if someone available to oversight tree planting at Warnervale and report back by email to Trish.

Status of lighting and CCTV cameras at Blue Haven

- Hopefully CCTV will be installed soon and level of lighting reviewed as part of this upgrade.

Restoring Harmony Project

- Jillian reported that the Restoring Harmony Project will not be signed off till late October 2011.

Coordination of Trailer

Discussion on trailer as follows:

- How successful has it been? What did we set out to do with it?
- Council believes that community groups are not using it as much as they should. Trailer not used anymore by groups at Mannering Park or Gwandalan as they do their own removal with their own equipment which they have obtained over time. Mannering Park and Gwandalan are small communities who have taken on a lot of initiatives and are virtually graffiti free.
- Jillian reported that:
 - Julie Vaughan had contacted her this morning to ask her if the San Remo Neighbourhood Centre would take over the coordination of the trailer. Jillian said: no as SRNC do not have capacity particularly in relation to storage of trailer and chemicals and the Neighbourhood Centre was not funded to teach people how to remove graffiti.
 - It was said that it could be possible to have the trailer if Emma was to coordinate trailer with community and pay her \$50 each trip for incidentals.
 - Mark is happy to continue to house the trailer at Unique Security.
- Question asked about community groups such as Scouts, Lions, Rotary and others being approached to take on coordination of trailer. Julie Vaughan is looking into community groups who might be interested. Needs an incorporated body to administer because of insurance.
- Council's issue is that they have invested a lot of money through the purchase of a significant amount of chemicals for trailer and are accountable for this and they would like to see the trailer being used much more.
- Mark Izzard said he and Julie were having discussions on how to get the trailer out in the community. He said the trailer is sitting in the office at Unique Security and not getting taken out at all.
- Challenge is to find someone to take over organisation of trailer as Northern Lakes Regional Business Chamber do not want to continue with trailer coordination.
- Comment made that people expect trailer to come out with "whole crew to remove graffiti".
- Bill Symington asked do we want to progress further. All in agreement although it was felt it was not something that the Forum wants to take on as a Forum.
- Jillian suggested we look at the model of Emma as facilitator who would go out with trailer to teach community members and groups how to remove graffiti, use of chemicals, etc. along with payment of \$50 per trip to Emma.
- Sue Wynn asked for clarification on some issues:
 - no one attached to trailer anymore? *No.*
 - does the trailer need a community group to drive it? *Yes.*
 - how to find group/have we targeted any group? *Julie Vaughan coordinating this.*
- Sue asked how is this model going to make trailer be used more. Sue felt that as a group we need to have a new model which will enable the trailer to be used more often. The trailer needs a group to take ownership and she felt that a community group such as Lions, Scouts, Rotary and the like would be a better model. She could see no difference in having the Neighbourhood Centre model than in the existing model. Jillian said that the trailer still needs an active person to facilitate and teach community members re graffiti removal.

GUEST SPEAKER

Welcome to Lynne Dickson from ELCO International who is going to speak on products manufactured by ELCO International which provide coatings for protection from and removal of graffiti. ELCO International is an all Australian company dedicated to providing innovative, specialised and unique coatings and associated products. They offer an extensive range of products and services throughout Australia however maintain a dominance in graffiti removal.

Lynne spoke on the different water based coatings the company manufactures – TUFF COAT AND PROTEKT-IT. Essentially the two main systems are:

Sacrificial Coatings (PROTEKT-IT)

Most sacrificial coatings are only suitable for raw masonry surfaces. With Sacrificial coatings you remove part of the coating each and every time you remove graffiti. You therefore must recoat the affected area but only the affected area, not the whole wall area.

Non Sacrificial Coatings (TUFF COAT)

This is a permanent coating designed for repeated removals without damage or degradation to the coated surface. In most instances a simple spray and wipe, chemical removal process is used to remove graffiti. TUFFCOAT – Permanent water based coating can be applied over most acrylic or enamel paint when the surface is touch dry.

Lynne showed “before” and “after” photos and video of graffiti being removed from “caravan” type trucks in Newcastle which had Tuff Coat applied over artwork and had been badly graffitied. The result was very effective.

Jillian had purchased 4 litres of TUFF COAT to apply to murals at San Remo and Budgewoi when completed. After discussion on the different coatings, prices and how many sq metres the coating would cover, it was decided that the purchase of 2 x 10 litres of PROTEKT-IT coating for the murals would be the better option and more cost effective. Lynne to arrange for return of TUFF COAT and delivery to the Neighbourhood Centre of PROTEKT-IT coating.

OUTSTANDING

Use of CSO Workers

- As reported in the last Minutes, the Forum are still awaiting a response from Council about the use of CSO workers in the removal of graffiti.
- Probation and Parole already has community service workers cleaning streets and have graffiti removal on their scope.
- Jillian said needs activation by Council.
- Sue offered to follow up with appropriate person at Council.

Replacement of Entry Signs – San Remo

- As reported in the last Minutes when Council contacted for a Customer Service Request Number, Jillian was advised that Julie Vaughan was the person who had to chase up the request as she did the original service request. As nothing more has been done, the Forum agreed that they:
 - want the signs removed
 - want signs replaced with 2 new ones
- Sue offered to follow up with appropriate person at Council and inform them of the Forum’s decision.

Development of Generic Letter for Letterbox Distribution in Budgewoi and Other Areas

- Jean Tyler asked about the generic letter (like Doug Darlington's template letter to businesses) that was discussed at the last meeting.
- Emma still in the process of drafting letter.
- Jean offered to deliver the letter to resident's letterboxes in her suburb.

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2011
AT 4 PM
AT SAN REMO NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE