



NORTHERN WYONG SHIRE GRAFFITI FORUM **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 27 MARCH 2012**

Present: Jillian Hogan, Services Manager, SRNC; Emma Ward, Graffiti Removal Expert and Adviser; John Carpenter, San Remo Tidy Towns; Thelma McFarlane, Blue Haven Craft; Doug Vincent, Councillor, Wyong Shire Council; Sue Wynn, Councillor and Deputy Mayor, Wyong Shire Council; Toni Trent, Benevolent Society; Ruth Punch, Toukley Branch ALP; Tricia Carlson, Warnervale Family & Community Centre; Neil Wynn, Mannering Park Tidy Towns; Anthony Williams.

Apologies: Julie Vaughan, Manager, Community and Cultural Development, Wyong Shire Council; Doug Darlington, The Entrance Precinct; Neil Wynn, Mannering Park Precinct; Gwen Gehan, Wallarah North Precinct/Blue Haven Craft; Martin Winterburn, Laken Haven Shopping Centre; Jill Hall, Federal Member.

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, Changes in Legislation

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

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

Police – Information for policy writing, Information sent to graffiti tag team @ The Entrance, PALS, Youth Service and Police working together

Forum Principles

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

Aims of Forum = Responsibility, Report, Removal, Reward and Respect

Northern Wyong Shire Graffiti Forum Endorsed Initiatives

- The NWSGF supports rapid removal programs – removal within 48 hours.
- The Forum supports recording and reporting graffiti harm.
- The Forum and Wyong Shire Council does not support graffiti art or graffiti walls as a way of deterring graffiti tagging.
- The Forum uses So Safe products.
- The Graffiti Beater trailer is equipped with chemicals, a gurnie and equipment for graffiti removal and is available for use by community and businesses.
- The Forum will provide an introductory kit to community members and groups and educate people on methods to remove graffiti.
- Wyong Shire Council will provide graffiti kits to residents.
- The Forum and WSC supports murals as a means to deter on-going graffiti vandalism.
- The Forum and Wyong Shire Council supports tree planting as a way to deter graffiti tagging.

- The Forum and Wyong Shire Council supports the Warner's Education Program.
- The Forum supports Graffiti Action Days – San Remo, Warnervale and Mannering Park involved.
- The Forum supports the Wyong Shire Council Graffiti Management Strategy.
- Wyong Shire Council and the Forum will work together to address graffiti harm.

UPDATES

Tree Planting – Warnervale

- Trish reported that her aim was to combine the planting of trees with Graffiti Action Day in June 2012 and she would speak to the young people about their participation.
- Doug to further investigate with Brett, Wyong Shire Council about removal of tree stumps. He said that tools and resources from Council were needed to dig holes.
- Discussion on model to be used – talk to Glen Cannard at Council re organising the supply of more advanced plants from Council Nursery.
- Discussion on funds available to purchase plants and chemicals from Keep Australia Beautiful.
- Emma will find out the date of Graffiti Action Day.

CCTV Cameras at Blue Haven

- Installation of CCTV cameras at Blue Haven to be done in April/May.
- Doug Vincent reported that the cameras at Budgewoi were installed but there were ongoing discussions with the Chamber and Precinct Committee about them being switched on.
- Doug said another initiative for the Forum could be to identify hot spots around the Shire and to recommend locations for the relocatable cameras on a fortnightly basis. Hopefully, this would give graffiti offenders a shake-up, they would think twice about doing it again and therefore reduce graffiti.
- Hot spots suggested are: Kanwal shops, Sparks Road, Blue Haven Community Centre, Blue Haven Toilet Block, Lake Haven Drive between Wyong Leagues Club and Lake Haven Shopping Centre and Budgewoi Shops – Federation Lane, community hall and Scenic Drive.
- There was discussion on graffiti on the back of Caltex Service Station, just before Wallarah Creek Bridge on the Pacific Highway at Charmhaven. It was suggested that this could be a role for the Restoring Harmony Project Workers – write letter to Caltex.
- It was also suggested that Doug Darlington be contacted re hotspots at The Entrance.

List of Sponsors – Jillian

- This still to be done – now List of Supporters.

Brochure for Letterbox Distribution

- Approval to print.
- Emma to send to Jillian and Council.

Use of CSO Workers

- On Probation and Parole's scope. Name and phone number of person to contact has been sent to Julie Vaughan, WSC.

Graffiti Beater Trailer

- No update.

Benevolent Society "Goodbye Graffiti" Public Meeting – Toni Trent

- Toni reported that the public meeting held on 21 March 2012 to discuss and develop strategies for addressing the increasing graffiti tagging on commercial and private property went well.
- There were 18 people in attendance including representatives from the Forum.
- Some positives from the meeting were elderly community members who took buckets to clean graffiti off their colourbond fences and Toni is to meet with Church members to organise a clean up.
- Emma did a demonstration of how to remove graffiti and people saw how easy it is to clean off graffiti.
- Toni is to do door knocking of local residents and businesses to ask how they would like to be supported to reduce graffiti.
- There was Police representation at the meeting and they said a lot of incidents of graffiti were not reported. The message was to REPORT! REPORT! REPORT! This enables more incidents of graffiti to show up on Police statistics.

Proceeds of Crime Funding – Julie Vaughan – Update

- No update.

Graffiti at SRNC – Jillian – Update

- Jillian reported that the Council had charged \$70 to clean off graffiti that SRNC staff had removed.
- Council came but didn't come into office and reported that they couldn't find any graffiti. A small bit of graffiti was found on back of Men's Shed which they cleaned off and charged \$70 for.
- Building tagged again – offensive, took photo, did service request, Council cleaned off again a few days later but a shadow was left. When Council contacted again they said it was only undercoat and they would be coming back to finish.
- Discussion as follows:
 - Need to push issue re policy and procedure – we need to fix
 - Why put all money into community if Council staff are not doing the work required. The job of graffiti removal by Council is not being done to standard required and a supervisor should be checking work.
 - Sue and Doug asked Jillian to send them an email with details as above and they will follow up.
 - Suggestion of saving money by being proactive. A cheaper option would be to put money into anti-graffiti coating.

Meeting at Halekalani re Trailer

- Meeting was cancelled. Northern Lakes Regional Business Chamber cancelled meeting as they felt there were other meetings on that clashed and nobody would turn up.
- John, Thelma and Gwen went to meeting only to find it had been cancelled and they were not informed.
- Doug said the meeting had been postponed to June 2012.
- The purpose of the meeting was for the distribution of chemicals, to discuss community access to trailer and a representative from Police to talk on Eye Watch Program.
- Discussion as follows:
 - As the trailer project came out of the Graffiti Forum, the Forum should be invited and involved – it would make more sense to come from Forum
 - We should all be working together instead of at cross purposes.

Warners Education Program

- Funds have been received and program to start in schools in May/June 2012. Julie Vaughan to provide update and information about schools, times, etc. No update at this meeting.

Restoring Harmony Project

- Congratulations to Anthony Williams and Emma Ward who are now employed by San Remo Neighbourhood Centre for 12 each per week.
- The 5 areas to be targeted are San Remo, Blue Haven, Budgewoi, Toukley and Gorokan.
- Emma brings knowledge of graffiti removal and clean up and Graffiti Action Days and Anthony has skills as an artist – he painted the murals at Budgewoi and San Remo shops.
- The Project aims to reduce graffiti vandalism in the 5 areas above and Emma and Anthony will be involved in graffiti clean-ups, removal of graffiti, tree planting and murals and in setting up groups by engaging young people and community members in these activities.
- Discussion and suggestions as follows:
 - Doug said other sites should be recommended for murals
 - Sue asked about engaging schools
 - Tidy Towns Policy – reducing graffiti is one of the aims of the groups. As there was no Tidy Towns group in Blue Haven and Budgewoi maybe this could be looked at.
 - It would be good for Anthony and Emma to link in with Precincts and other groups such as Tidy Towns, Landcare, Men's Groups, Community Gardens, etc.
- Anthony and Emma said their first job was to do a physical audit in the 5 areas. They would map out, street to street, where graffiti was, how much there was, what surfaces painted on, how to clean off and look at graffiti tags.
They were doing San Remo together – commented that Goorooma Ave has lots of graffitied wooden fences – could be painted over.
- Sue suggested a visit to Mannering Park Public School to look at Aboriginal murals and look at telegraph poles on way into Mannering Park which are all painted as totems.
- Engage school children to design/paint murals on fences.
- There is only \$10,000 in the Restoring Harmony Project budget for murals
- The Forum can apply for more funds from other sources to paint murals.

REQUESTS

- Request to Council to put information about the NWSGF on their graffiti web page has been done.
- GOATS Family Festival to be held on 15 April 2012 – do we want a stall with trailer and who is available to man it? Everyone in agreeance to have stall and it was decided:
 - Doug to organise trailer
 - Emma, Anthony and Thelma to be there to promote

NEW INITIATIVES

- Graffiti Vandal Hotline – Freecall 1800707125 – to dob in a graffiti sprayer
- Discussion on article in Express Advocate dated 21 March 2012 which reported on the State Government allocating \$90,000 in funding to help Wyong Council combat graffiti vandals. It was thought that this might be funding from the Attorney General's Department which Julie Vaughan reported on at the last meeting of the Forum.

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 29 MAY 2012
AT 4 PM
AT SAN REMO NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

TASKS

Jillian to:

- 1) Compile list of supporters
- 2) Send Sue and Doug email with details of what happened with graffiti at SRNC and lack of Council response.
- 3) Suggestion that Doug Darlington be contacted re hotspots at The Entrance in relation to CCTV cameras

Emma to:

- 1) Suggestion that Restoring Harmony Project Workers write letter to Caltex re graffiti on back of Caltex Service Station on Pacific Highway at Charmhaven
- 2) Brochure for letterbox distribution – update

