



## **NORTHERN WYONG SHIRE GRAFFITI FORUM** **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 26 JULY 2011**

**Present:** Jillian Hogan, Services Manager, SRNC; Doug Vincent, Councillor, Wyong Shire Council; Emma Ward, Graffiti Removal Expert and Adviser; 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 Silk, Wallarah North Precinct, Tidy Towns, San Remo Community Garden; Doug Darlington, The Entrance Precinct Committee; Neil Wynn, Mannering Park Precinct Committee; Martin Winterburn, Assistant Operations Manager, Lake Haven Shopping Centre; Jean Tyler, Community Member; David Harris, Community Member.

**Apologies:** Sue Wynn, Councillor, Wyong Shire Council; Trish Carlson, Warnervale Family and Community Centre; Darren Webber MP, Member for Wyong; Lorna Dooner, Housing NSW; Coral Burnham, Mannering Park Progress Association.

**Jillian Hogan** opened meeting, welcomed everyone and introduced a new face – Jean Tyler, a community member. Jean lives at Kanwal and has a garage with a brick wall facing the road which was constantly being grattified. She purchased some soft animal toys from Vinnies and attached them to the brick wall with a sign “Under Surveillance” and her garage wall has not been graffitied since! She said that graffiti in general was very bad at Kanwal. 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

### **GRAFFITI UPDATES**

#### **The Entrance**

Doug Darlington reported as follows:

- Following a report in the local paper in June 2011 that homes at The Entrance had been sprayed with graffiti, Doug did an inspection and only found graffiti in 4 spots and none on residential properties. There were very small amounts on the bridge, sub station, car park and back of shops.

- The Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research LAGA Hotspot Map 2010 shows hot spots of graffiti at San Remo, Blue Haven, Lake Haven, Gorokan and Kanwal.
- There is some graffiti at Long Jetty and the temporary construction sheds at Shelly Beach Surf Club are covered in graffiti which the Council has not removed.
- Doug had a telephone call from a lady who knows the identities of 3 people who have graffitied and their tags. She has passed the details onto the Police but is not prepared to testify as she hasn't actually seen them committing graffiti offences.

### **Warnervale**

Emma Ward reported as follows:

- Emma has been cleaning graffiti off on main road and advising community members how to clean off.
- Discussion re tree planting. At last meeting it was advised that Doug Vincent has been talking to Trish Carlson at Warnervale Family and Community Centre in relation to tree planting along Sparks Road and engaging staff and the community in tree planting and asking Council to donate shrubs. Nothing further heard on this since last meeting. Jean Tyler advised that there was a wild plant nursery at the Pioneer Dairy which gave away free plants. Information to be passed onto Trish Carlson.

### **Blue Haven**

Martin Winterburn reported as follows:

- Football Canteen graffitied a dozen times in last month or so – lighting so bad.
- Concrete barricades near entry into Blue Haven constantly graffitied. Graffiti on fencing – offender caught.
- There was also graffiti on street signs (advised RTA looks after this) and on sub station electrical boxes (advised Ausgrid cleans off) and on equipment in the parks – a report has been made to Council.
- There is not a group actively cleaning off graffiti in Blue Haven area.

### **San Remo**

Karen de Coque reported as follows:

- Pleasing that all colourbond fences along Goorama Ave are graffiti free.
- The top of San Remo and Wills Road also looking much better.
- Young people have been cleaning off graffiti at the round-a-bout at Blue Haven. This attracted a lot of positive comments and “thumbs up” from cars passing by.
- The timber fences are still a problem and Karen and the young people have been trying different strengths of chemicals. Unfortunately there is no easy way to clean the graffiti off timber fences.
- The help which has been received from community members has made a huge difference in the clean up process.
- Jillian spoke on Juvenile Justice conferencing and suggested that part of the outcome plan for juvenile offenders could be to attend Forum meetings to observe.

### **Mannering Park**

Neil Wynn reported as follows:

- Shocker school holidays – not just graffiti attacks but breaking and entering, boats broken into and local community hall damaged – smashed windows.
- Graffiti attacks on newsagent wall and recent Graffiti Action Day wall were done in broad daylight at 4.30 pm.
- Amenities Block at Mannering Park point hit again. The rear wall which was planted out to stop the area being graffitied was also hit again.
- Graffiti from the above buildings was removed the next day and reported to Toukley and The Entrance Police Station.
- Neil emphasised the need to remove graffiti straight away before it has time to dry as it comes off much easier, less chemicals are needed and takes less time to remove.
- Graffiti now being done with “marking” spray cans (the ones used to mark lines).
- Bulk chemicals have been obtained from Council. Gwandalan also received chemicals.

### **Lake Haven**

Martin Winterburn reported as follows:

- Tags on side of K Mart and graffiti in other places including near Leagues Club. There was one big hit three weeks ago but this has been cleaned up.

### **Budgewoi**

- Community not engaged in cleaning off graffiti.
- Lot of graffiti on fences along Scenic Drive.
- Jillian spoke about a young person who came to the Centre to ask how to clean graffiti off fences in Budgewoi as it looked awful. Karen de Coque is showing him how to do.

### **Other**

- Gwen reported on the constant amount of graffiti on the house just before bridge at Charmhaven (opposite petrol station). An older gentleman lives in the house and is unable to remove the graffiti himself. Emma offered the use of old paint she has and to organise people to get together to paint out graffiti.
- Jillian reported ZAP Variety Shop at Westfield, Tuggerah to CrimeStoppers for displaying and selling spray cans which were not under lock and key.

### **GRAFFITI MANAGEMENT PLAN**

- Doug Darlington informed the meeting that the Council has formally adopted the Graffiti Management Strategy. The document is on Council's website.
- Doug said it was a good policy. It gave telephone numbers of who to ring to report graffiti and made mention of the Forum (but no contact details).
- Council to allocate \$100,000 to support.

### **COMMUNITY GRAFFITI TRAILER**

#### **Coordination of Trailer**

- Mark Izzard rang Jillian to ask if San Remo Neighbourhood Centre wanted to take over the trailer and the running of it. Jillian said the Neighbourhood Centre were not

able to do this as there was nowhere to store the trailer and the chemicals at the Neighbourhood Centre. The Northern Lakes Regional Business Chamber do not want to coordinate the trailer anymore.

- What is needed is an organisation to take on coordination of trailer with:
  - the time to use it
  - someone with an email address for communication, taking bookings, messages
  - someone like Emma who has great skills in engaging the community
  - somewhere to store trailer and chemicals
- Discussion on storage of trailer and chemicals. Suggestions included:
  - A lock up garage plus cupboard for chemicals needed – there would be a cost for this but maybe could ask for donation.
  - Still need an organisation (preferably incorporated body) to take on responsibility of trailer.
  - Jillian said there was no reason why we can't pay Emma for graffiti removal from money left in Graffiti Forum bank account but Emma needs to be attached to an organisation.
  - Jillian asked Neil if he thought any of the community groups at Mannering Park would be interested in coordinating the trailer – it could be administered by Mannering Park Progress Association and the trailer used by Emma. Neil said he knew that the Landcare Group were reluctant to do graffiti removal.
- Other suggestions for storage and/or coordination of trailer:
  - Old Warnervale School – Boys Air League – only outdoor space. Trailer needs to be indoors and locked up. Suggestion of purchasing shipping container at \$600 - \$700.
  - Toukley Senior Citizens Club.
- Jillian to talk to Maree about exactly what is involved with organisation, coordination, and storage of trailer.

### **Gwandalan Spring Fair – 18 September 2011 – Lions Club**

- The Forum to have a Graffiti Stall at the Fair with information and flyers on graffiti topics and the community graffiti trailer on display. Doug Vincent added his name to the list of volunteers offering to man stall during the day.
- Bill Symington to organise residents kits and how community members can obtain a kit.

### **Display of Trailer at Lake Haven Shopping Centre**

- To be organised when a decision made about who will be managing the trailer.

### **UPDATE ON INITIATIVES**

#### **Status of lighting and CCTV cameras at Blue Haven**

- Status not known.

#### **CCTV and Mobile Cameras – Toukley/Budgewoi**

- Doug Vincent reported that the cameras were still to be installed. At present poles and electricity were being looked into and discussions were continuing about who would cover ongoing operational costs and monitoring.

### **CSO Workers**

- Jillian still trying to “pin down” Julie Vaughan to continue discussions about the use of CSO workers in removal of graffiti.

### **Reporting Processes – Neil**

- Neil commented that when reporting vandalism, the Police come out quickly but when reporting incidents of graffiti often don't get any action. Martin Winterburn said Police came out straight away when incidents reported at Lake Haven Shopping Centre. It was felt that the immediate response was because the shopping centre were in a better position as they were a big organisation. Jillian said as we were in a small organisation the response was not as good.

### **Removal of Signs from Entries to San Remo**

- Jillian reported that when she had contacted Council for a Customer Service Request Number she was informed that Julie Vaughan was the person who had to chase up the request as she did the original service request. Jillian to email Doug Vincent with details and he will follow up.

### **NEW FUNDING/INITIATIVES**

#### **Murals – Budgewoi and San Remo**

- Flyers advertising purpose and dates of meetings to be held in San Remo and Budgewoi with the community artist and community members were distributed to Forum members.
- The meeting for the San Remo mural is to be held tomorrow, 27 July at John Pete Howard Reserve, San Remo where it is hoped to obtain ideas, sketch out the mural and develop a plan to paint.
- The meeting for the Budgewoi mural is to be held on 24 August at Halekulani Oval, Budgewoi. Already started engaging the community particularly playgroup.
- If murals successful, may be able to attract funding for more murals.
- Doug Darlington showed photos of murals he had photographed in Broken Hill.

#### **Restoring Harmony Project – Update from Meeting**

- Jillian attended meeting yesterday to discuss contracts for this 2 year funding project.
- The Restoring Harmony Project funding of \$155,000 will be used to employ a Project Worker for 25 hours per week over 2 years. Activities will include creation of 10 more Graffiti Action Groups, clean up days, paint outs, murals and tree planting. Activities will involve education (not just cleaning) and the priority will be to engage young people and the community in the activities listed above.

#### **Community Buckets**

- These have been ordered.

### **Paint Graffiti Wipes**

- Still to be purchased.

### **Other Graffiti Issues Discussed**

- Doug Vincent spoke about the large amount of graffiti in Budgewoi particularly on fences along Scenic Drive. Suggestion of developing a generic letter with Forum's logo (like Doug Darlington's template letter to businesses) and putting in letterboxes in Budgewoi. The letter could also be adjusted for use in other areas. The letter could include who to call about reporting graffiti, how to obtain buckets from Council, phone number to access trailer and Emma's details – if people incapacitated could contact Emma to remove graffiti at a reasonable rate. Emma offered to compose a draft letter.
- Jean Tyler spoke on the need to involve schools in graffiti cleaning and painting murals. Discussion took place on graffiti walls. The Forum do not support the concept of graffiti art and graffiti walls and felt that graffiti walls do not work as a way of stopping tagging.
- Jillian had spoken to Shari from Greater Toukley Vision who had given her contact details for a company who supply a protective coating for murals – Lynne, Elco International Tel: 0421855429. \$217 for 4 litres/5sq metres – 2 coats per litre. Emma to investigate further.
- Bill and Garry from Gwandalan Lions Club talked about a scheme in America where the community were given over 3 million plants to plant to minimise graffiti.

## **Task List**

### **Jillian**

- Talk to Maree, Northern Lakes Regional Business Chamber about exactly what is involved with organisation, coordination and storage of trailer.
- 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.
- San Remo Entry Signs – email Doug Vincent re Julie Vaughan to chase up Customer Service Request as she did the original service request.
- Any more suggestions for use of Bunnings Voucher and rest of Graffiti Forum bank account (after purchase of community buckets).
- Contact Gosford Council re graffiti shop in Gosford selling graffiti apparatus.

**NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 30 AUGUST 2011**  
**AT 4 PM**  
**AT SAN REMO NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE**