



NORTHERN WYONG SHIRE GRAFFITI FORUM **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 28 FEBRUARY 2012**

Present: Jillian Hogan, Services Manager, SRNC; Emma Ward, Graffiti Removal Expert and Adviser; John Carpenter, San Remo Tidy Towns; Gwen Gehan, Wallarah North Precinct/Blue Haven Craft; Doug Vincent, Councillor, Wyong Shire Council; Sue Wynn, Councillor and Deputy Mayor, Wyong Shire Council; Bill Symington, Councillor, Wyong Shire Council; Jean Tyler, Bamboo House; Gordon Silk, Wallarah North Precinct and San Remo Community Garden; Toni Trent, Benevolent Society; Julie Vaughan, Manager, Community and Cultural Development, Wyong Shire Council; Andrew Whitbourne, Mannering Park Precinct, Landcare and Tidy Towns; Ruth Punch, Toukley Branch ALP.

Apologies: Tricia Carlson, Warnervale Family & Community Centre; Doug Darlington, The Entrance Precinct; Neil Wynn, Mannering Park Precinct; Thelma McFarlane, Blue Haven Craft; Shari Young, Toukley Vision. 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

Replacement of Entry Signs – San Remo

- Signs done. They are metal signs with an anti-graffiti coating and So Safe Products (green) would be used to remove any graffiti.

Tree Planting – Warnervale

- Ruth Punch is still caring for plants and they are doing well although Ruth advised they are growing fast and will need to be planted out soon.
- Doug Vincent reported that the original idea was that the staff from Warnervale Community Centre and the local school be engaged in the planting of these trees along Sparks Road.
- Doug has been advised by Council staff that the casuarinas previously planted had been cut down although the stumps still had to be removed and the tree planting could not progress till then.
- After discussion it was decided that Doug would organise a meeting with Trish Carlson, Ruth Punch and Brett, Wyong Shire Council to talk about the tree planting with the hope that the trees will be planted around April 2012.

CCTV Cameras at Blue Haven – Julie Vaughan

- Tender process has been completed for upgrading of security fencing and installation of CCTV cameras at Blue Haven and this work will be undertaken soon.
- There was discussion on the increase in anti-social behaviour in Blue Haven. Gwen spoke on a few incidents of bad behaviour. There was also discussion on the increase in anti-social behaviour being due to changes in State Government funding.
- Julie said meetings had been held at Blue Haven with the community to inform them of the CCTV cameras. She also said that 2 relocatable CCTV cameras had been located at Wadalba Amenities Building and another community building in the Shire and there has been no "hits" since cameras had been up and running.
- Doug was asked about CCTV cameras at Budgewoi. He said the cameras were up but he wasn't sure if they were working as there has been issues with the positioning of the cameras and difficulties with the company who provided the cameras.
- Bill spoke on the "cameras" they had set up at Gwandalan comprising of a laptop with 4 cameras of which 2 cameras were dummy ones. This cost \$1,000 and seems to be working as a deterrent to graffiti offenders.

Mural Project

- Both murals have been completed.
- There was discussion on the trees planted in front of the mural wall at San Remo having died. It was felt that they had either been poisoned or another thought was that the anti-graffiti coating from the wall had ran onto the ground with the extreme amount of rain we have had over summer and killed some of the grass and most of the trees.

Restoring Harmony Project

- The funding has been received for the Restoring Harmony Project.
- The funding will be used to employ a person for 25 hours per week with the main focus being the setting up of Graffiti Action Teams in 5 different locations around the Shire – San Remo, Blue Haven, Budgewoi, Toukley and Gorokan. The project aims to reduce graffiti vandalism in the Wyong Shire by engaging young people and community members in activities including clean up days, paint outs, murals and tree planting.
- The position has been advertised and interviews will be held next week.

List of Sponsors – Jillian

- Jillian advised that she has still to compile power point slide comprising list of sponsors.

T Shirts

- 50 t shirts have been purchased at a cost of \$1,000 (Council donation) and were available at the meeting for Graffiti Forum members to choose their size.

Brochure for Letterbox Distribution

- Brochure is finished and ready to be printed.
- There was discussion on what money can be used for printing of brochure.

Use of CSO Workers

- The use of CSO workers in the removal of graffiti is on Probation and Parole's scope.
- Jillian to advise Julie of contact details for Nicole at Probation and Parole.

Graffiti Beater Trailer

Update as follows:

- Julie advised that the Northern Lakes Regional Business Chamber are coordinating the use of the trailer again. They have redefined brochures and have assured Council the promotion of the trailer is an area of interest for them.
- The Chamber have allocated a coordinator to look after the trailer. The coordinator has been trained to supervise people who borrow the trailer to remove graffiti.
- Anyone who wants to borrow the trailer can ring the Northern Lakes Regional Business Chamber on 43971457 or email: info@northernlakes.net.au.

- Doug and Julie informed the Forum of a meeting organised by the Northern Lakes Regional Business Chamber to promote the trailer and engage community groups. Gwen, Gordan and John said they had received invitations to the meeting on behalf of the Wallarah North Precinct. No invitation or details of the meeting had been received by the Forum.
- The meeting is to be held at Halekulani on Thursday 22 March 2012 and as well as promoting the use of the trailer will discuss graffiti issues and a representative/s from Tuggerah Lakes Police Command will be attending.

Mannering Park Toilet Block

- Andrew reported that the toilet block has been “graffiti free” of late.

Wyong Garden Group

- Jillian had given a talk on minimising graffiti to the Wyong Garden Group in January at Tuggerawong Hall. She said the hall was lovely with lots of history but unfortunately was covered in lots of graffiti.
- Jean Tyler said the Tai Kwon Do group who use the hall had offered to clean off the graffiti in the near future and would be using the Graffiti Beater Trailer to assist with the clean up.

NEW INITIATIVES

Proceeds of Crime Funding – Julie Vaughan, Wyong Shire Council

An investment of \$3 million from the Proceeds of Crime Fund to help local councils clean up and prevent graffiti has been announced by the Australian Government. The Fund is part of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 which was established to discourage and deter crime by preventing criminals from enjoying the financial benefits of their illegal activity. Funds are confiscated under Commonwealth law from the proceeds of crime. The focus of this funding will be on crime prevention through projects that aim to prevent, reduce and/remove graffiti.

Julie said the Council would be submitting an application for funding and outlined the funding as follows:

- The Australian Government has invited applications from local government organisations working in partnership with local not for profit community groups to support anti-graffiti activities.
- Eligible organisations are able to apply for funding ranging from \$50,000 to \$150,000 for an individual project.
- Projects must aim to prevent, reduce or remove graffiti and cannot have already have started or have just been completed.
- There is no limit on the number of applications an organisation can submit as long as they are presented separately.
- Examples of qualifying projects are the provision of security cameras and lighting for graffiti hot spots, projects that aim to design out graffiti (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) including public art and mural initiatives, community graffiti awareness campaigns and education programs with particular focus on young people.

Julie said the Council’s proposal would be broad and would ask for funding for a combination of anti-graffiti initiatives including perimeter planting of trees, painting of murals and expansion of Tidy Town groups in other parts of the Shire.

Julie also reported on the following:

- **Attorney General's Department Funding Application** – Application submitted and funding to be used for lighting, anti-graffiti painting and murals at Wadalba and Lake Munmorah.
- **Warners Education Program** – Funds have been received and program to start in schools in May/June 2012.

Bill Symington spoke on the effectiveness of planting of trees and shrubs next to buildings to deter graffiti vandals. One wall of the Sports Hall at Gwandalan has been planted out with 15-18 bouganvilleas with very thorny plants in between at a cost of approx. \$450. It is hoped that this can be done around the whole building.

Benevolent Society "Goodbye Graffiti" Public Meeting – Toni Trent, Benevolent Society

- Toni spoke on a public meeting to be held at the Lakelands Community Centre, Kanwal on Wednesday 21 March 2012 to discuss and develop strategies for addressing the increasing graffiti tagging on commercial and private property.
- Leaflets were distributed advertising the meeting.
- The purpose of the meeting is to develop shared understanding of the issue and explore local strategies. There will be information about enforcement, abatement and education as well as a presentation on best practices in removing graffiti.
- The meeting will be facilitated by the Gorokan and The Entrance Village Hub,
- a project of the Benevolent Society, and representatives from Wyong Shire Council, Northern Wyong Shire Graffiti Forum and Wyong Police will speak at the meeting.
- Wyong Shire Council Graffiti Removal Kits will be available free for eligible residents at the meeting.

Three boys whom Jillian had invited to the meeting (as she had caught one graffitiing) came in and took part in the meeting. There was a general discussion about graffiti walls and the young people had the opportunity to participate and also hear what the group had to say on graffiti issues.

OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED

- Discussion took place as follows:
 - There seems to be an increasing amount of graffiti along roads, on road signs, entries to suburbs and main thoroughfares through suburbs such as Sparks Road, Warnervale and Goorama Ave, San Remo.
 - Graffiti on bus stops – who to report it to? Mixture of Council and RTA.
 - Consider looking anti-graffiti coating.
 - Julie spoke on Poster Project undertaken in 2009 and 2010 and the positioning of posters at bus stops around the Shire.
 - Gordon spoke on the entry to San Remo off Scenic Drive which look terrible, particularly fences covered in graffiti. Discussion followed. Suggestion that TidyTowns and/or Precinct could look at fixing up.
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GRAFFITI MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The following items from the Council's Graffiti Management Strategy were discussed:

Item 9.1.4 - Council support could include providing free paint vouchers instead of graffiti kits once per year

- Julie said that Council had investigated the possibility of a partnership with Bunnings re the provision of paint vouchers but with no success. Maybe the Forum could explore further.

Item 9.1.5 – Council explore promoting a graffiti small grants scheme as part of the community benefits funding round. Need to explore further at next meeting.

Item 3.3 Rapid Removal –

The approach of rapid removal is considered Best Practice in combating graffiti. Council policy is to inspect all main roads and streets regularly to identify incidents of graffiti on Council buildings and infrastructure and remove it within two weeks from sighting. Offensive graffiti removal reports on Council’s buildings or structures have priority. If the graffiti is offensive it is removed within forty eight hours of identification by Council’s Graffiti Removal Resource Officer, who circulates around entire Shire.

Website Page – Council takes a rapid removal approach to graffiti removal and will remove offensive graffiti within 48 hours of being reported and general graffiti within 14 days. Removal is prioritised based on its content, offensiveness and location.

- Jillian spoke on the Neighbourhood Centre which had an outside wall graffitied three weeks ago. She had reported it to Council’s Customer Service Department. Despite follow-up phone calls, no-one from Council has come to remove it even though Council’s website page says general graffiti will be removed within 14 days.
- Julie said she would speak to the Community Building Maintenance Team but the reality is it should have been removed before this. However, there is only one person and one truck to remove graffiti from Council property in the whole Shire and general graffiti can only be removed “within available resources”.
- Members of the Forum said when you ring Council’s Customer Service Department to report graffiti they cannot give a timeframe of when it will be removed. After discussion and suggestions, Julie said she would organise for Building Maintenance to supply a roster of where they are up to in relation to removal of graffiti so that the Customer Service Officers can tell members of the community when they ring “they will be in your area next.....”.
- There was discussion on the perception that “more things get done in the south of the Shire than in the north of the Shire – not true.

REQUESTS

- Request to Council to put information about the Northern Wyong Shire Graffiti Forum on their graffiti web page.
- Julie said she would organise this.

NEW PROJECTS

- Discussion on the Social Enterprise Project and the revamping of the **Extreme Sports Park**. There will be a meeting on 8 March 2012 to kick start the Extreme

- Sport Park project again. Items include painting of mural, funding for provision of liberty swing and disabled bar-b-que and flattening ground as bowl too deep.
- Doug Vincent gave out pamphlets on the Northern Lakes Disability Tourism Precinct which explains who they are, their vision and how it can be achieved, current projects such as the Lakes Beach Disability Access Project and contact details.

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 27 MARCH 2012
AT 4 PM
AT SAN REMO NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

TASKS

Doug Vincent to:

- 1) Organise meeting re tree planting project at Warnervale

Julie Vaughan to:

- 1) Speak to Building Maintenance, WSC re supplying timeframe roster of where they are up to in relation to removal of graffiti
- 2) Organise for information about Northern Wyong Shire Graffiti Forum to be put on Council's graffiti web page.

Jillian to:

- 1) Advise Julie Vaughan of contact details for Nicole at Probation and Parole.
- 2) List of sponsors – create power point slide of sponsors.

