



NORTHERN WYONG SHIRE GRAFFITI FORUM **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 29 MAY 2012**

Present: Jillian Hogan, Services Manager, SRNC; Emma Ward, Restoring Harmony Project Worker; Thelma McFarlane, Blue Haven Craft; Doug Vincent, Councillor, Wyong Shire Council; Sue Wynn, Councillor and Deputy Mayor, Wyong Shire Council; Toni Trent, Benevolent Society; Tricia Carlson, Warnervale Family & Community Centre; Neil Wynn, Mannering Park Landcare; Coral Burnham, Mannering Park; Kylie Harrison, Jerrod Harrison; Maree Booth, Northern Lakes Regional Business Chamber; Julie Vaughan, Manager, Community and Cultural Development, Wyong Shire Council; Doug Darlington, The Entrance Precinct; Angela Ware, Student Support Officer, Northlakes High School.

Apologies: Gwen Gehan, Wallarah North Precinct/Blue Haven Craft; Jean Tyler, Bamboo House; Andrew Whitbourne, Mannering Park Precinct/Landcare/Tidy Towns; John Carpenter, San Remo Tidy Towns; Martin Winterburn, Laken Haven Shopping Centre; Jill Hall, Federal Member.

Jillian Hogan opened meeting and welcomed everyone and introduced new faces, Jerrod Harrison and his mother, Kylie. 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 and Doug spoke on this. "Our" plants still in the care of Ruth Punch.
- Doug reported that Council has started with tree planting along Sparkes Road. Doug asked Council about planting "our" plants in between the trees being planted by Council and discussed with them the concept of community partnering.

CCTV Cameras at Blue Haven

- Doug and Maree reported on cameras at Budgewoi and Toukley. They have been installed but not working as yet. The operation of the cameras has turned into a legal issue.
- Julie spoke on the trial of 2 relocatable cameras at Wadalba and Kurraba Hall, Berkeley Vale. Evidence from the 3 month trial showed a significant reduction in graffiti. The cameras have a good capacity with a back up system and use an SD card.
- Council is investigating a model used in Queensland which is simpler.
- Julie said the cameras at Blue Haven and Gravity had shown footage of incidents which have been reported to Police.
- Julie suggested she could organise for someone to come to a Forum meeting and give a demonstration of how cameras work.

Budgewoi Update – Doug Vincent

- Doug reported that instances of graffiti had calmed down in Budgewoi.
- Doug handed out a leaflet, produced in conjunction with the Northern Lakes Regional Business Chamber, which can be filled in and placed in letterboxes of premises which have been graffitied. The leaflet offers free chemicals and provides contact details for use of the graffiti trailer.

The Entrance Update – Doug Darlington

- Doug reported that there was not a lot of graffiti in The Entrance area of late. He had spoken to 3 premises in the last month.

Mannering Park Update – Neil Wynn

- Neil reported that he has the name and address of a local who has been tagging in the area. Neil doesn't feel confident about going to Police. They don't seem to want to know and would not take report over the telephone.

Discussion took place on reporting to Police and lack of Police representation at meetings:

- There was general consensus that this was one element which has broken down.
- Need to improve this system.
- Julie said she was happy to talk to Police.
- Jillian said she had spoken to Beth Gaudin who was now back at Crime Prevention and happy to attend future meetings. Due to Beth's working hours we would have to move meetings to 3 pm so Beth can attend. Everyone agreed.

Juvenile Justice – Ian Rumbel

- Ian spoke on conflict of interest and restrictions in what he can do with young people.
- The vehicle he uses now has a towbar so he can borrow the graffiti eater trailer to remove graffiti.
- Can only remove graffiti on community buildings (not private property) – been working on cement bus sheds along Pacific Highway.
- Ian has completed training in Graffiti Awareness (run by PCYC) so he can now run a 2 hour program for kids with graffiti issues.

My Park Project Update

- My Park Open Day held on 18 May 2012. The day was very successful with mural painting, activities for kids, mosaics and a free bbq.
- All graffiti has been painted off bowl and a mural painted.

Use of CSO Workers – Probation and Parole

- Julie to organise for Bruce Phillips to do presentation at next Forum Meeting.

Toni Trent, Benevolent Society – “Goodbye Graffiti”

- Toni reported that two girls had been seen tagging a low wall at Kanwal Community Centre. The graffiti was reported to Council.
- Areas identified for tree planting – private colourbond fences bordering park areas.
- Local volunteers to be part of Graffiti Action Days.
- Toni spoke on and handed out information sheet on Stencil Art Project as follows:
 - The Stencil Art Project is an anti-graffiti strategy.
 - Young people and the community will be invited to participate in a series of art workshops to create individual designs that will be developed into stencils.
 - This is a cost effective way of painting smaller areas which are being constantly tagged.
 - The stencils will become the property of the project and can be reused numerous times as new locations are identified.
 - Stencils can be roller painted to avoid the use of spray cans.
 - Toni pointed out that stencil art would not replace murals which are preferred for large walls.
- Doug Darlington said he felt this type of project would not control graffiti.
- Jillian talked about “Just Add Water” Project which could link with above.

Discussions with Jerrod and Kylie Harrison

- Kylie said while she doesn't condone tagging, she feels that projects such as Stencil Art will not stop taggers.
- Jerrod said he had been a tagger and has bought aerosol cans for a number of years. He said he would not destroy somebody else's art work.
- Coral Burnham spoke to Jerrod about a project at Mannering Park involving planting done by the community and school children. No plants had been pulled out – ownership by community and school children.
- Toni Trent spoke about the Stencil Art Project and paying young people for artwork and asked Jerrod about whether he would like to participate in a workshop designing stencil art and receive payment for it.
- Sue Wynn said some principles of graffiti minimisation do work such as rapid removal and painting of murals eg Budgewoi shops and San Remo shops. Small community groups removing graffiti in their own area was working well and showed that people want to live in a clean environment.
- Jillian said this Forum was about localised solutions, for example, the fence on the right hand side as you come into Brava Ave which was constantly graffitied and has now been painted over with a design, courtesy of Emma.
- Julie spoke about legal graffiti walls and how they do not work in all areas.

Proceeds of Crime Funding

- Yes – received.

Warners Education Program

- Julie reported the Program was running in the following schools in May/June 2012 targetting 1,700 Year 8 students: Gorokan HS, Lakes Grammar at Warnervale, Lake Munmorah HS, Northlakes HS, Mary MacKillop HS, St Peters Catholic College, Wadalba Community School, Wyong HS, Tuggerah Lakes College and Wyong Christian School.
- The Program is fully funded by Wyong Shire Council and is designed to enhance Council's existing Graffiti Minimisation Strategy.
- It is a highly engaging and entertaining program which is designed to prevent youth from undertaking a range of anti-social behaviours with a focus on tagging while providing them with crucial life skills.
- The creative, educational presentation is themed "Don't be a fool, tags aren't cool" and focuses on preventing youth from travelling down the graffiti path.
- Parents received a fact sheet outlining details of the Program and how parents can help in the fight against graffiti.

Restoring Harmony Project

Emma reported as follows:

- Anthony Williams was no longer working for the Project.
- Results of physical audit done of each area are:
 - **San Remo** – over 200 sq metres mostly over fences on the main thoroughfare and any public areas such as parks.
 - **Blue Haven** – over 200 sq metres mostly completely covering the parks and public laneways. Does not include the graffiti at the Community Centre.

- **Budgewoi** – over 170 sq metres mostly on the shops, front and back, local hall and bridge area.
- **Toukley** – over 80 sq metres mostly on walls behind the shops or laneways. Under the bridge is completely covered and some on roads. Vacant plaza is an eyesore.
- **Gorokan** – over 300 sq metres. This suburb is bigger than the others and has graffiti nearly everywhere, mostly on blank fences on the main roads. Public laneway is a mess.
- Emma attended the GOATS Family Festival on 15 April 2012 and together with Thelma McFarlane manned the Graffiti Stall with a static display that included information about graffiti removal. The day went well as they talked to members of the public about what to do about graffiti including how to report it and how to remove it. Information flyers were handed out and people were informed about obtaining a free graffiti removal kit from Wyong Council.
- Emma handed out bundles of information to everyone. Information included brochure for letterboxes “What You Can Do About Graffiti”; information and contact number for NSW Graffiti Hotline; Graffiti Elimination – The Model flyer; information and contact details for VandalTrak and VandalTrak newsletter; information on helpful websites re graffiti plus Facebook address and WSC Residents Graffiti Removal Kit Application Form. These kits can also be obtained from Northern Lakes Regional Business Chamber.
- Emma said there would be no Graffiti Action Day this year as run by the Government in past years.

NEW INITIATIVES/SUGGESTIONS

- **Graffiti Vandal Hotline** – Freecall 1800707125 – to dob in graffiti sprayer.
- Discussion took place on suggestion of having two WSC workers to deal with graffiti removal – one in the North and one in the South.
- Graffiti coating on Council buildings. Neil spoke about toilet block at Mannering Park Point. The toilet block has been graffitied so much it is past the point of cleaning off and has to be painted over.
- Discussion on glazed brickwork which resists graffiti. Jillian to chase up with Lynne Dickson from Elco International.
- Beth Gaudin – “Boxed Art Project” where local schools design artworks to be painted onto traffic signal boxes.

Thank You to Thelma

- A Certificate of Appreciation for her outstanding contribution to the GOATS Family Festival to be presented to Thelma to say thank you for manning the Graffiti Stall with Emma at the Festival on 15 April 2012.

Discussion on Meeting Dates and Times

- It was decided that meetings would now be held bi-monthly after the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 26 June 2012 and then bi-monthly.
- The time of the meetings will now be 3 pm.

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 26 JUNE 2012
AT 3 PM
AT SAN REMO NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

TASKS

Julie to:

- Reporting to Police – Julie offered to follow up with Beth Gaudin re Neil Wynn's issue of lack of response from Police.
- Organise for Bruce Phillips to do presentation at next meeting.

Jillian to:

- Contact Lynne Dickson from Elco International re glazed brickwork which resists graffiti.

