

Swansea Heads Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan

Developed by residents of Swansea Heads
through the Swansea Heads Sustainable
Neighbourhood Initiative

supported by Lake Macquarie City Council 2010



Residents Act Locally for Globe:
Newcastle Herald, 20 March 2010
Photographer: Jonathan Carroll

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Contents

The Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program	1
About Swansea Heads	2
Summary results from Swansea Heads Sustainable Neighbourhood Survey	3
Swansea Heads Sustainable Neighbourhood Area	4
Swansea Heads - Community Vision	5
Swansea Heads Neighbourhood Values	6
Value 1: We love our natural environment	6
Value 2: We love our outdoor lifestyle	6
Value 3: We are future focused and committed to reducing our footprint	7
Value 4: We value strong community connections.....	7
Sustainable Neighbourhood Actions for Swansea Heads 2010-2020	8
Actions for Value 1: We love our natural environment.....	8
Actions for Value 2: We love our outdoor lifestyle.....	10
Actions for Value 3: We are future focused and committed to reducing our footprint.....	11
Actions for Value 4: We value strong community connections	12
2010-11 Swansea Heads Priority Projects.....	13
About Us: Swansea Heads Sustainable Neighbours	13



The Sustainable Neighbourhood Program: Reducing the city's ecological footprint neighbourhood by neighbourhood

Background

Lake Macquarie City Council is committed to caring for the local environment and making a fair contribution to a happy sustainable planet. The Sustainable Neighbourhood Program is a bottom up approach which enables communities to develop their own neighbourhood sustainability action plan, implement actions that reduce their neighbourhood footprint, and increase their neighbourhood well being.

A sustainable Neighbourhood for Swansea Heads

In April 2009, Council met with a group of residents from Swansea Heads who were interested in sustainability matters, to discuss the feasibility of developing a Sustainable Neighbourhood Group in Swansea Heads.

With the support of this first group of residents, on 23 May 2010 Council conducted an introductory, family friendly, Swansea Heads Sustainable Neighbourhood workshop for the community to learn about the initiative, voice their neighbourhood views, and get involved in the Sustainable Neighbourhoods program.

After 12 months of various community engagements (noted below) the draft action plan was finalised on World Environment Day, 5 June 2010, at the final Swansea Heads Community Action Planning Workshop. At the workshop five priority projects were flagged for 2010-11 (see back cover); a group of coordinators and project leaders were established; and the draft plan was accepted.

Residents launched the Swansea Heads Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan on National Tree Day, Sunday 1 August 2010, with the Deputy Mayor Kay Fraser officiating. Coast Guard Swansea, Lake Macquarie Landcare, Frenchmans Boardriders, and Lake Macquarie City Council supported the launch.

The Swansea Heads sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan: Methodology

Over a period of 12 months, the Swansea Heads Sustainable Neighbourhood Group worked with neighbours and Council through a variety of engagements to collect information about Swansea Heads and what matters to residents.

Engagements included:

- Swansea Heads Sustainable Neighbourhood Introductory Community Workshop (May 2009)
- Monthly Swansea Heads Sustainable Neighbourhood meetings (from June 2009)
- Swansea Heads Sustainable Neighbourhood Survey (September 2009)
- Monthly Sustainable Neighbourhood education sessions (from October 2009)
- Community BBQ and ideas sharing after Swansea Heads Clean Up Australia Day (March 2010)
- Swansea Heads Sustainable Neighbourhood Final Action Planning Workshop (Saturday 5 June 2010 - World Environment Day)
- Launch of Swansea Heads Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (Sunday 1 August 2010 - National Tree Day)

The information collected through these engagements has formed the basis of the Swansea Heads Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan.



About Swansea Heads

Swansea Heads is the traditional land of the Awabakal people. Swansea Heads is located in the Hunter Region of New South Wales, Australia, at the southern entrance of Lake Macquarie (see map on page 4).

Swansea Heads: census 2006

Population	Swansea Heads	Lake Macquarie	Population Growth	Swansea Heads	Lake Macquarie
	602 persons 51% female 49% male	183139 persons 51% female 49% male	2001-2006	-1.1%	3.1%

Ancestry	Swansea Heads	Lake Macquarie	Age Distribution	Swansea Heads	Lake Macquarie
Indigenous	2.8%	2.3%	0-24 years	32%	32%
Australian born	89%	85%	25-44 years	23%	24%
Speaks English only	95%	93%	45-64 years	29%	27%
			65 years plus	16%	17%
			15 years plus	80%	80%

Selected Medians	Swansea Heads	Lake Macquarie	Households	Swansea Heads	Lake Macquarie
Age	41 years	40 years	No of total households:	246	74,740
Weekly household income	\$1,037	\$922	Unoccupied h/holds	13%	7.2%
Monthly mortgage	\$1,257	\$1,300	Living in separate h/holds	94%	92%
Monthly rent	\$924	\$832.50	Fully owned	42%	34%
Household size	2.4	2.6	Being purchased	35%	22%
Unemployment	6.4%	6.7%	Renting	21%	23%
Street address 1 year ago	87%	88%	One person households	17%	36%
Street address 5 years ago	65%	65%	Two person households	39%	40%

Education	Swansea Heads	Lake Macquarie	Households	Swansea Heads	Lake Macquarie
Years 11/12	42%	36%	Family households	83%	81%
Post school qualifications	23%	22%	Other household type	17%	19%
			Couple family with child	58%	58%
			Couple family no child	26%	26%
			One parent household	16%	15%

Employment	Swansea Heads	Lake Macquarie	Volunteers	Swansea Heads	Lake Macquarie
15 years plus in workforce	59%	56%	Volunteers	24%	17%

Main Fields of Study	Swansea Heads	Lake Macquarie	Need Assistance with Self Care	Swansea Heads	Lake Macquarie
Architecture, building, engineering	36%	29%	Need Assistance with Self Care	2.8%	5.4%
Health and education	23%	18%			

Main Employment Sectors	Swansea Heads	Lake Macquarie	Health Care & Social Assistance	Swansea Heads	Lake Macquarie
Retail	14%	13%	Health Care & Social Assistance	14%	13%



Summary results: Swansea Heads Sustainable Neighbourhood Survey

Background

In September 2009, 100 out of 246 Swansea Heads households completed the Swansea Heads Sustainable Neighbourhood Survey. The Lake Macquarie City Council Sustainable Neighbourhood Community Research (2009) revealed the following results.

1. Neighbourhood features of Swansea Heads

That the natural environment and friendly neighbourhood are the most valued features of the Swansea Heads neighbourhood. Swansea Heads residents spend a lot of time outdoors with more than 91 per cent of respondents out walking, swimming, picnicking, cycling, or boating in the four weeks prior to the survey.

2. Neighbourhood attitudes to climate change

74% of Swansea Heads residents believe that climate change will affect their daily lives over the next two decades, and 68% believe behaviour change at the household level has the capacity to slow climate change.

3. Reducing neighbourhood household footprints

Swansea Heads residents take steps to reduce their ecological footprint, with 95% of households fitted with water and energy saving appliances and 95% of households having compost bins.

4. Neighbourhood environmental concerns

Weed control, rubbish, and stormwater management were identified by survey participants as environmental concerns for Swansea Heads.

5. Neighbourhood actions

Residents surveyed believed the most important things residents could do in their neighbourhood were to protect and maintain the natural environment, reduce rubbish and energy consumption, and learn how to manage stormwater in their yards.

Households surveyed indicated that they would take part in neighbourhood clean ups (94%), growing native gardens (86%), and improving their skills and knowledge to protect the environment (69%).

People of Swansea Heads are more likely to volunteer compared to the average resident of Lake Macquarie City.

Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC)
Neighbourhood Community Research 2009



Swansea Heads Sustainable Neighbourhood Area

A peninsula neighbourhood, the Swansea Heads Sustainable Neighbourhood area includes residents of Swansea Heads and Swansea East; six ecosystem types; four engendered ecological communities (see page 6); and many cultural features.



Features of Swansea Heads Sustainable Neighbourhood

- 1 Important feeding area for migratory birds and other waders
- 2 Largest area of Coastal Saltmarsh in Lake Macquarie City
- 3 A popular walking trail through the Littoral Rainforest
- 4 Salts Bay Littoral Rainforest and endangered ecological community
- 5 Swansea Channel: the gateway to Lake Macquarie
- 6 Reids Reserve: community park
- 7 Most biodiverse rock platform in the region and contains fossilised tree stumps
- 8 Aboriginal reburial site
- 9 Coast Guard Swansea Radio Base
- 10 Kangaroo Grass (Themeda) Grassland – an endangered ecological community
- 11 Crabs Beach Landcare whale watching platform
- 12 Coastal heath vegetation – a haven for native plants and animals
- 13 A great place to surf – frequented by Frenchmans Board Riders



Swansea Heads - Community Vision

To preserve and improve the quality of life for residents, native species and those who visit Swansea Heads.

We want a neighbourhood that:

- values all residents;
- forges strong community connections;
- actively protects and enhances its natural environment;
- is future focused; and
- provides opportunities for our residents to attain skills, abilities, and knowledge that will enable us to take action to achieve our vision.

The residents of Swansea Heads are committed to achieving this vision, through the implementation of activities and projects identified on pages 8-12 in this Swansea Heads Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan.



Swansea Heads Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Planning Workshop
Saturday 5 June 2010 (World Environment Day)



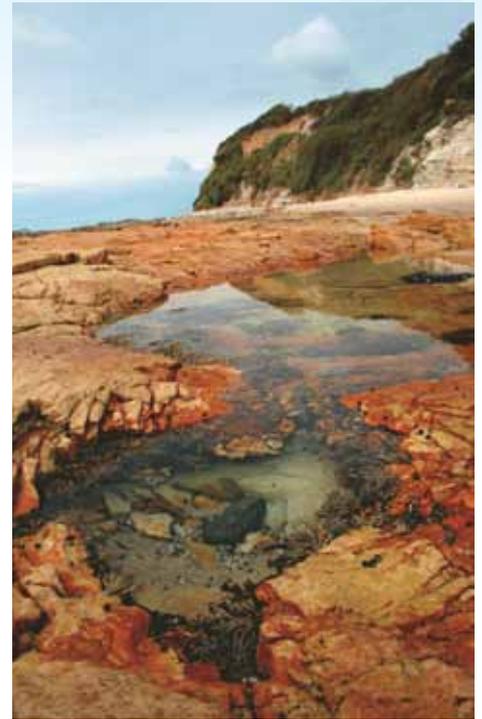
Swansea Heads Neighbourhood Values

Value 1: 'We love our natural environment'

Swansea Heads is a place of diverse natural beauty within an area of just 1.4 square kilometres. The neighbourhood contains six of the nine ecosystem types that exist in Lake Macquarie City, including Ocean, Coast, Lake, Wetlands, Heath Complex, and Rainforest. There are four endangered ecological communities including Littoral Rainforest, Saltmarsh, Themeda Grasslands, and Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest. Swansea Heads contains the highest ecologically diverse rock platform in the region. There is currently a proposal for the area to be listed as a marine reserve or intertidal protected area. Black Neds Bay is a feeding place for migratory birds that live in the northern hemisphere for half the year and Swansea Heads for the other half.

Together we will...

- Understand the environmental challenges that may affect our neighbourhood now and in the future, and in particular sea level rise, weeds, and over harvesting of marine and rock platform life.
- Retain, maintain, and protect our natural assets.
- Support eco-friendly stormwater management.
- Develop and implement strategies to prepare for and mitigate the impact of climate change.



Swansea Heads rock platform

Value 2 - 'We love our outdoor lifestyle'

The residents of Swansea Heads spend a lot of time outdoors. We can be found fishing, swimming, snorkelling, surfing, and beachcombing. Children play on the beaches, in local rock pools, and in parks. People walk, are out with their dogs, picnic, and take part in all kinds of outdoor activities.

Together we will...

- Take action to promote our outdoor lifestyle and improve our outdoor environment.
- Make our streets, walking tracks, public parks, and reserves safe places to be.
- Reduce dumping and improve the attractiveness of our public spaces.
- Support neighbourhood recreational events and activities.
- Fish sustainably and boat safely.
- Walk and cycle more.



Frenchmans Board Riders - Learn to surf Day, Dec 2009



Swansea Heads Neighbourhood Values

Value 3: 'We are future focused and committed to reducing our footprint'

Swansea Heads has a very high proportion of stand-alone dwellings compared to other areas within Lake Macquarie City, providing residents with the ability to control and manage their homes and backyards towards creating a more sustainable lifestyle.



Swansea Heads: organic free-range eggs; home compost system; energy saving home; veggie garden

Together we will...

- Take personal action to make our households more sustainable with respect to reduced energy, water, and fuel usage, reduced amounts of chemicals used in homes, reduced consumption and generation of waste.
- Become better informed on aspects of sustainable living including renewable energy, water and waste management, and passive urban design.
- Apply eco-friendly gardening principles to save water, increase habitat spaces for native animals, enhance the amenity of our properties, and produce our own food.

Value 4: 'We value strong community connections'

The people of Swansea Heads have a strong community spirit and are good neighbours. We greet each other and often stop to chat. We are an easy-going community, who watch out for each other and feel safe. Our community includes people from all age groups and all walks of life, some of whom have lived here all their lives, others who have joined us more recently, while others are part-time residents, joining us when they can.



Clean Up Australia Day 2010; Action Planning Workshop 2009; Children Visioning 2009; On Site Access Gate Community Meeting 2010

Together we will...

- Strengthen community ties by creating opportunities for inclusion of all residents in community activities.
- Take part in civic life and public decision making, particularly on matters that affect our neighbourhood.
- Support local business and tradespeople, welcome new neighbours and visitors, look out for our older residents and the children of our neighbourhood.



Sustainable Neighbourhood Actions for Swansea Heads 2010-2020

Actions for Value 1: "We love our natural environment"

Neighbourhood Actions		Resources	2020 Outcome
1.1	<p>Develop and enhance Landcare activities in Swansea Heads.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote local Swansea Heads Landcare stories in newsletter; Support and reinvigorate Landcare works from the past, particularly at Salts Bay, Little Beach and the Headlands; Create new Landcare groups where necessary such as along the back of Northcote Avenue to enhance habitat, amenity, and reduce fire hazards; Install whale watching platform at Crabs Beach Landcare site; Support Lake Macquarie Landcare works; Recognise experienced neighbourhood Landcarers to mentor new groups and new neighbourhood Landcare volunteers; Run annual Landcare working bee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants Council Lake Macquarie Landcare Neighbourhood News Neighbourhood Landcare Groups Neighbourhood Landcarers 	<p>Existing Landcare Groups are promoted and supported by residents.</p> <p>Old Landcare groups at Salts Bay and Little Beach are reinvigorated, active, and with the support of others (like Council and Conservation Volunteers) have got on top of the primary environmental issues affecting these sites.</p> <p>Where necessary, new Landcare sites have kicked off.</p> <p>A high percentage of residents have lent their time to 'the odd Landcare Working Bee, and the community has become well informed and able to manage environmental issues affecting the natural environment in Swansea Heads</p>
1.2	<p>Run annual Swansea Heads Clean-Up Australia Day activities across the neighbourhood on the first Sunday in March.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean Up Australia Day Council Neighbourhood News Neighbourhood volunteers 	<p>Swansea Heads Clean Up Australia Day activities on the first weekend in March have become an annual neighbourhood event and have become increasingly support by all residents across various sites in the neighbourhood – consequently, there is hardly any litter and dumping in Swansea Heads.</p>
1.3	<p>Install an access gate at Swansea Heads Access Track to reduce dumping.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community petition to Council Council 	<p>The access gate provides security to Coast Guard Swansea volunteers, and helps eliminate dumping and speeding along the track. The track has become a shared space and used frequently by pedestrians and cyclists.</p>
1.4	<p>Install voluntary conservation sign/s around Swansea Headlands rock platforms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighbourhood graduate from Project Aware on the Coast community education program Council 	<p>The rock platforms of Swansea Heads continue to be the most ecologically diverse platforms in the region. Residents and visitors take care to protect the precious ecology of the area.</p>
1.5	<p>Include tips, articles, and website links on protecting and improving ecosystems that are relevant to Swansea Heads ecosystems in the Neighbourhood News.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landcare Council Trees in Newcastle Local specialists 	<p>The <i>Neighbourhood News</i> has become a tremendously useful communication mechanism for communicating environmental information about Swansea Heads. It is well supported by both residents and providers of information.</p>



Actions for Value 1: "We love our natural environment" (continued)

Neighbourhood Actions		Resources	2020 Outcome
1.6	Host quarterly educational activities around features of the natural environment in Swansea Heads and plan actions that the community can do to protect and enhance these qualities: such as weed identification, local wildlife, water catchment/stormwater management to reduce runoff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council • Hunter Bird Observers Club • Landcare • Local specialists 	Residents look forward to coming together to learn from local experts about how they can live more sustainably. Get togethers are social and informative. There are always plenty of volunteer presenters available, to share their knowledge and experiences with Swansea Heads residents.
1.7	Produce Swansea Heads Sustainable Neighbourhood resource booklet on CD for all residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council 	By using this resource as a reference, residents have become more aware of the cultural and environmental assets in Swansea Heads and what actions they can do to protect and enhance them.
1.8	Support community environmental programs conducted in Swansea Heads including: Lake Macquarie Landcare Themeda Grasslands project at Illawong Park; Council's Autumn Bitou Bash; the Summer Coastal Activities Program; Hunter Bird Observers bird monitoring program; community voluntary conservation zone on rock platforms; Coastal Aware on the Coast Education program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landcare • Council • Caring for Our Country – Grants program 	Residents and friends of Swansea Heads, of all ages, are lending support to the various environmental programs running throughout the neighbourhood.
1.9	Lobby relevant agencies to assist with activities to maintain and protect our natural environment, including the removal of <i>Tribulus terrestris</i> (Cathead burrs) from Reids Reserve; the resources to manage rainforest at Salts Bay; and having an access gate installed at the beginning of the Swansea Headlands access track, to reduce dumping.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents 	Swansea Heads has developed a strong and well-respected community voice through the Sustainable Neighbourhoods program. Residents work together to understand problems and lobby Council for support.
1.10	Participate in environmental monitoring programs like Council's Community Ecosystem Monitoring program, Waterwatch, and Weed Warriors; and promote results in Neighbourhood News.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council • Waterwatch • Weed Warriors • Neighbourhood News 	Residents have been monitoring the health of the natural environment in Swansea Heads for almost a decade. Results are well published and the environmental health of the neighbourhood continues to improve.



Actions for Value 2: "We love our outdoor lifestyle"

Neighbourhood Actions	Resources	2020 Outcome
<p>2.1 Improve the amenity at Reids Reserve</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove Cathead burrs; • Install shading over seats; • Install a community sign promoting neighbourhood vision and values; • Create costal heath wild flower gardens; • Create a community compost area and veggie patch; • Install play equipment and a community meeting place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resident volunteers • Gardening groups • Council • Landcare • Grants • The Swansea Men's Shed 	<p>Reids Reserve is a showcase site of Swansea Heads and includes features like: a shaded play area for children; educational and community signage; community art space; a large community meeting area; attractive native gardens; and community vegetable garden beds. People use the area for community meetings, recreation, relaxing, socialising, community events (including cinema under the stars and a spot for local musicians to jam).</p>
<p>2.2 Improve the amenity at Swansea Headlands</p> <p>For example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce and eradicate litter and dumping; • Install view areas and educational signage about the history, the environment and local community groups that have an interest in the area; • Create costal heath wild flower gardens; • Invigorate and support Landcare groups including: the Bahtabah Landcare Group; Coast Guard Swansea Landcare and Little Landcare; • Install bollards along the road and lobby for the access track to be a shared zone road so that it is safe for all users. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resident volunteers • Swansea Coast Guards • Bahtabah Local Aboriginal Land Council • Landcare • Gardening Groups • Council • RTA 	<p>The Swansea Headlands has become the jewel of the neighbourhood. The access track has become a shared space, littering and dumping have become a thing of the past, native gardens and educational signage delight visitors, and thanks to numerous Landcare working bees, weeds are no longer a major problem.</p>
<p>2.3 Improve and maintain Salts Bay walking track.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resident volunteers • Council • Landcare • Grants • The Swansea Men's Shed • Conservation Volunteers 	<p>The walking track and boardwalk through Salts Bay has been restored and is maintained through partnerships between community, Council and other environmental agencies. Neighbours use the pathway for leisure and recreational activities on a daily basis.</p>
<p>2.4 Promote local outdoor recreational groups in newsletter.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood News 	<p>Recreational activities are regularly promoted in the Neighbourhood News.</p>
<p>2.5 Create a Walking School Bus.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents 	<p>Children and adult volunteers prefer to take the Swansea Heads Walking School bus/es to and from their respective schools.</p>



Actions for Value 3:

"We are committed to reducing our household footprint"

Neighbourhood Actions		Resources	2020 Outcome
3.1	Residents participate twice yearly do-it-yourself household footprint audits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swansea Heads Energy Saving Working Group 	Residents are aware of the amount of energy their household requires and they take measures to reduce wasting energy and find ways to save it.
3.2	Residents sign up to the 10:10 Challenge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council 	Swansea Heads residents who found ways to reduce their household energy usage by 10% in 2020, have continued reducing their energy use and supported others to do the same.
3.3	Explore energy, water, waste saving options for Swansea Heads, and promote to the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local neighbourhood experts Swansea Heads Energy Saving Working Group Council 	Residents are informed about what renewable energy options are available for them to take.
3.4	Conduct neighbourhood energy saving initiatives For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bulk buying of solar hot water systems; Bulk buying of solar PV systems through solar system suppliers; Bulk buying of solar systems through energy retailers; and Community based projects including solar PV, wind, and/or tidal energy (subject to funding approval). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local neighbourhood experts Swansea Heads Energy Saving Working Group Council Grants Coast Guards Swansea 	Residents are informed about efficient household energy usage. There are numerous locations around the neighbourhood producing energy to the grid.
3.5	Develop neighbourhood gardening group to help neighbours create habitat gardens, veggie gardens, rain gardens (to manage stormwater) and neighbourhood composting systems to manage green waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Toronto Gardening Club Hunter region Permaculture, Trees in Newcastle 	Household yards are attractive, productive, water efficient, low maintenance and attractive to native wildlife.
3.6	Share innovative strategies to save money, reduce waste, water and energy consumption in Neighbourhood News.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents Neighbourhood News 	The <i>Neighbourhood News</i> is a valued mechanism for sharing information on how to reduce household footprints.
3.7	Conduct neighbourhood sustainability talks and educational activities on topics such as: backyard water sensitive urban design; habitat gardening; worm farming; weed identification; the wildlife of Swansea Heads; Permaculture principles; renewable energy solutions; what to do in the case of a fire; jam making; knitting etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resident experts Council Trees in Newcastle Interest groups 	Residents look forward to coming together to learn from local experts about how they can live more sustainably. Get togethers are social and informative.
3.8	Residents participate in Council's Sustainable Living programs, including uptake of rebates, habitat gardening and other workshops.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council 	Council's Sustainability program is innovative informative and well supported by Swansea Heads residents.



Actions for Value 4: "We value strong community connections"

Neighbourhood Actions		Resources	2020 Outcome
4.1	<p>Conduct quarterly Swansea Heads Sustainable Neighbourhood meetings to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> enable neighbourhood decision making and participatory democracy practice, support and enable neighbourhood projects generate a collective voice for the neighbourhood create a platform for residents, Council and other interested parties to come together to support and develop the Swansea Heads Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swansea Centre Swansea Heads Sustainable Neighbourhood Coordinators and project leaders Council Guest speakers 	<p>Residents have developed a strong, representative, respected neighbourhood voice. Neighbourhood decision making is done through participatory democracy. Swansea Heads is a leading neighbourhood community empowerment. Residents are proud of their achievements and the process they undertook to achieve outcomes.</p>
4.2	<p>Establish a neighbourhood communications working group.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents 	<p>Swansea Heads has its own communications team, who are able to source and report on stories from the neighbourhood, maintain the necessary technology, develop networks and distribute communications sustainably.</p>
4.3	<p>Generate a neighbourhood newsletter, to focus on residents and their civic contributions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighbourhood communications group Council Grants Local contributors 	<p>The Swansea Heads Sustainable Neighbourhood News a useful and well supported communications mechanism for residents of Swansea Heads.</p> <p>It is complementary to existing local newsletters.</p>
4.4	<p>Develop and maintain Swansea Heads Neighbourhood Directory to connect residents with local service providers and business.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighbourhood communications group 	<p>Local neighbourhood skills, services, interest groups and businesses are known to and supported by all residents.</p>
4.5	<p>Create a neighbourhood webpage that highlights the environmental, historical, and community aspects of Swansea Heads.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighbourhood communications group Webpages for communities 	<p>Residents are proud of their neighbourhood and accomplishments and are readily promote Swansea Heads on the internet.</p>
4.6	<p>Develop a neighbourhood social group to organise neighbourhood get-togethers, educational workshops, events, street parties etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents 	<p>Residents and friends look forward to, and support community social events.</p>
4.7	<p>Develop a neighbourhood transport group to support less mobile residents of Swansea Heads.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents helping residents 	<p>Residents are aware of people's transport needs and have found ways to share resources and help each other out.</p>
4.8	<p>Maintain and develop electronic Swansea Heads Sustainable Neighbourhood Mailing List.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration forms Internet 	<p>Friends of Swansea Heads are regularly informed via email about Neighbourhood and Council projects in which they can participate to help make Swansea Heads a sustainable neighbourhood.</p>
4.9	<p>Develop and maintain Swansea Heads Sustainable Neighbourhood social networking facilities, such as FaceBook, Online Forums, Blogs, Flickr sites and other that become available.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet 	<p>Friends of Swansea Heads regularly converse and problem-solve via social networking facilities about Neighbourhood and Council projects to help make Swansea Heads a sustainable neighbourhood.</p>



2010-2011 Swansea Heads Priority Projects

Project	Tasks	Project Leader
1. Enhance Swansea Heads ecosystems through Landcare and community actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various Landcare working bees • Clean Up Australia Day activities • Neighbourhood education activities 	Barbara Smith
2. Energy saving projects for Swansea Heads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple DIY household energy audits • Bulk buying of solar hot water systems • Bulk buying of solar PV systems through solar system suppliers • Bulk buying of solar systems through energy retailers • Community based projects including solar PV, wind or tidal energy (subject to funding approval) 	Robert Dunlop
3. Strengthen communications in Swansea Heads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish quarterly neighbourhood newsletters • Create and maintain neighbourhood directory • Create and maintain Swansea Heads webpage • Maintain Sustainable Neighbourhood mailing list 	Ross Woods
4. Strengthen connections in Swansea Heads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly Sustainable Neighbourhood meetings with guest speakers • Quarterly social and educational neighbourhood gatherings • Fundraising 	TBC
5. Investigate community transport projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the need for a walking school bus • Investigate how to support non-mobile residents 	TBC

* Implementation plans for the above projects are available from contacts below.

About Us: Swansea Heads Sustainable Neighbours

If you want to get involved contact

Ross Woods (from Swansea Heads)
 Leader of Swansea Heads Neighbourhood Communications
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 SwanseaHeads@gmail.com

Kate Bestwick (from Lake Macquarie City Council)
 Community Empowerment Coordinator
 Phone: 4921 0333
 kbestwick@lakemac.nsw.gov.au

Swansea Heads sustainable Neighbourhood Meetings:

The Swansea Heads Sustainable Neighbourhood meetings are on the first Saturday of December, March, June, and September, from 3.00-5.00pm, at the Swansea Centre, Pacific Highway Swansea. Afternoon tea is provided and guest presentations are welcomed at the beginning of each meeting. Contact Ross Woods to nominate a presentation.

Supporters:

Lake Macquarie City Council; Swansea Community Cottage; Frenchmans Board Riders; Crabs Beach Landcare, Coast Guard Swansea.

