

# Mandalong Community Association Inc

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Incorporation No: Y2392125

## **Presidents' Report** **Mandy Allen and Marton Marosszeky**

November 2024

During the past 12 months the committee has been busy working on two primary issues, progressing the proposal for the Mandalong Community HUB with LMCC and Centennial Mandalong, and addressing the community's concerns regarding the proposal to establish an industrial estate at the mouth of the valley on the floodplain. In addition, our new web site has been created through a lot of hard work from Leonie Sweeney, thank you Leonie.

In relation to the HUB the main work has been to stay in touch with LMCC to ensure that once the RFS moved the MCA would have access to the site for the construction of the HUB. Steve MacAlister from LMCC has been very responsive, and we have been told that:

- LMCC now has been given control over state owned sites such as this whereas in the past it was under the control of the NSW state government and LMCC simply had stewardship on behalf of the state.
- LMCC has discussed the use of the land internally and is supportive of the MCA gaining access to it.
- LMCC has two tasks to fulfill before MCA can have access via a lease, the first is to negotiate with RFS to release the site and the second is to make sure that the RFS check the site for PFOS and if necessary, decontaminate the site.
- It is expected that early in the new year MCA will revive access to the site.

We have also discussed our plans for the site with Centennial Mandalong and they have indicated that in principle they are planning to support the MCA in its development of the site. The first step directed towards our HUB is through a further grant of some \$12,500 from the Centennial Mine Community Trust fund towards the development of the DA for the use of the RFS site. This is the third grant we have received from this trust and with this we expect we will have close to \$20,000 towards our project.

The second issue we have worked on is to oppose the establishment of the industrial estate at the mouth of the Mandalong valley as a part of the Morisset Place Strategy. This has involved 3 public meetings which attracted some 200 people. We were able to attract the local member Greg Piper and 5 people who were aspiring to represent the citizens of the West Ward on the new LMCC. Two of those who attended are among our four new representatives on council. We have had 3 groups working to develop and document our case for opposing the development. One worked on our opposition from the perspective of environmental impact factors, another addressed the issue of flood risk in the valley and a third addressed the issue of general and

particularly truck traffic in and around Morisset and on the roads on this side of the freeway. The MCA made a major submission to LMCC outlining our case for opposing the development. We want to thank the team of some 12 people who worked on this document and thank the MCA executive for all the work that went into organising the meetings which included developing, printing and distributing flyers, invitations and the meetings themselves. This has been a very important issue for the valley and our team has done a fantastic job in representing our interests.

We are planning to address a LMCC meeting regarding our opposition in the new year.

The background work by your executive has involved many meetings, correspondence, with local and state representatives, public meeting organisation, the publication of a pamphlet, signs put up to indicate the extent of the proposed industrial estate, letter drops, and the creation of public documents for circulation to influence the local community regarding the Morisset Place Strategy.

Finally, your committee has met regularly and organised a number of social activities such as the one we are having today, these have been held at some of our member's homes. We thank those community members who have opened their homes so that we can keep the MCA alive and moving forward with its purposes of protecting our valley and rebuilding social capital in Mandalong through our activities. We continue to work towards the creation of our community HUB.

Particular thanks today to Louise and Peter for providing their property for our meeting.

Thank you to everyone for your tireless work and enthusiasm.

The people who had achieved this significant program of work on our behalf include Angela Besant, Angela Astles, Bob Armstrong, Carole Parbury, Greg Barnicoat, Julia Stenton, Leonie Sweeney, Marton Marosszeky, Mick Astles, Paul Sayer, Robert Seiler, Robyn Hall, Steven Ostergaard, Tracey Corkery, Tracy McCown, Zsafia Kennedy.

During the year many of our members and other residents of the valley complained repeatedly regarding the fan noise from the mine's South Mandalong site. Our representatives at the CCC pushed hard to have the fan noise reduced, this has been a big project for the mine as the original fans provided were poorly designed and inadequate at managing noise. A major redesign and refurbishment is underway and it should be completed in the next three months.

Other issues that the MCA prosecuted on behalf of its members included:

- the poor condition of Mandalong Road and the influence of a raised water table on the resilience of the road
- raising awareness with the Real Estate Institute and with the Mandalong Mine that Ray White had sold Mandalong Mine land in the valley without disclosing the fact that it is subject to flooding

- the establishment of a Facebook page as it is considered that this is necessary if the MCA is to secure government funds in support of its Community Hub project, thank you to Tracy and Zsofia for their work on this.
- The re-establishment of the MCA website with support from Andrew Gobsill of Nitor Technologies. A big thank you to Leone Sweeney for her hard work on this.

During the year the MCA has also lobbied Lake Macquarie City Council regarding the illegal fence at 695 Mandalong Road. Eventually we were successful in getting the council to admit that defence was non-compliant and dangerous to wildlife and drivers and they have contacted the owners to have the fence altered. Most recently, in late June we were advised by Council that the owners of the property have been slow to comply with Council's requirements and they believe that a submission is being made to Council to have its decision reconsidered.

In early June we wrote to the Lord Mayor of Lake Macquarie City Council to seek a meeting with the purpose of engaging Council support for the Community Hub project, a reply was not received and a further letter was sent on 16 July. We believe that it is critical for the MCA to obtain Council support for its plans.

At several meetings of the CCC we have raised the community's concern regarding the use of the area outside the entrance to Mandalong Mine's southern site by some people spinning out on the roadway creating noise and a hazard to the public.

Finally, both of us would like to thank all the members of the executive committee and other members of the association who have been actively supporting the work of the MCA. These include:

Robyn Hall, Zsofia Kennedy, Angela Besant, Tracy Corkery, Leone Sweeney, Mick Astles, Greg Barnicoat, and most recently Julia Stenton, Tracy McCowan who agreed to develop and manage the MCA Facebook page and join the executive.