



# SHCG

**Scotts Head  
Community  
Group**

Scotts Head Community Group Inc  
PO Box 54  
SCOTTS HEAD  
NSW 2447  
Inc No. 9874531  
ABN 24 006 656 566  
[scottsheadcommunitygroup@gmail.com](mailto:scottsheadcommunitygroup@gmail.com)  
<https://scottshead.org.au/>

Ordinary Committee Meeting, November 25th 2025 @ 6pm, Reserve Hall, Scotts Head

## Minutes

**Commenced:** 6.00 pm

**Acknowledgement of Country:** Delivered by Chair

**Apologies:** Jason Howard, Moira Ryan

**Members Present:** Tony Crimmins (TC), Janet Granek (JG), Deena Gilroy (DG), Richard Collins (RC), Fiona Preston, Michael Pemberton, Karen Welch, George Driussi, Allan Turner, Jacki Middleton, John Schmidt, Shane Humphries, Matt Guselli

Presenters:

**Allan Turner:** TC invited Allan to speak to the group prior to the usual meeting formalities, to accommodate his need to leave for another commitment before 7pm.

Allan provided a clear colour coded map (provided in the agenda), showing the various route options for the Bike/Walking Connection including paths through the Gaagal Wanggaan National Park - together with a handout covering current progress to date. It was also identified that it is necessary to follow up with Clr Simson to see where the information is sitting within council, and what the next step would be to ensure it progresses further. There is a general understanding that it aligns especially well with the Active Transport Strategy that the state government is pushing for, and that it is important to get this proposal into the Council Community Strategic Plan. Action - TC to follow up with Clr Simson to check on current status.

**Jacki Middleton:** TC invited Jacki to speak ahead of the agenda so that she could leave and attend to park matters.

- Reflections have put in a grant submission for the "Love your locals" grant - for the proposed Reserve Hall renovations, in line with the quote a local builder provided earlier this year. They are confident of this being successful and hope to have the funds available in the next few weeks
- Test and Tag was done through the Reserve Hall last week, and everything deemed safe
- Coring of the reserve lawns (aerating and loosening up the ground to get oxygen into it) is planned for the reserve lawns as soon as there is some rain to wet/soften the ground for best results (hopefully tonight)

- The team has been busy tidying up the grounds, fixing the beach access and look out stairways, and generally improving infrastructure. It is planned to continue these improvements for all the beach access points - and it is hoped that the West Street lookout will be fully repaired and in great shape by Christmas
- Mick is working on the fencing repairs, and Justin (Ecolinx) has been undertaking more weed control at Elephant Head
- Happy to announce we have a whole program of reserve weed control and vegetation management for the next 12 months
- JM is retiring effective 31 Jan 2026 from her role as Manager Reflections Scotts Head. She is sad to be leaving the team she has developed and is very proud of the work they have achieved across the Reserve in recent months. JM and partner Ray will remain with Reflections in the new role of Relief Managers
- The Park has three more staff commencing next week - and they are all locals residing in Scotts Head.

On behalf of the SHCG, TC thanked JM for her support of the SHCG during the time that she has been Park Manager and commended her on the great progress made in the recent 12 months on maintenance and improvements across the Reserve. TC went on to wish JM and partner Ray all the very best in their new roles as relief managers for Reflections Parks across NSW.

**Guest Speaker:** Matthew Guselli (*Senior Operations Leader, North East Conservation Programs, Heritage & Regulation - Dept of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment & Water*) - who was joined by his colleague Shane Humphries

Matt and Shane are both Compliance and Regulation officers, and they both took turns explaining what it is that they do, and providing a wealth of info about where to find the relevant information on land management in our area (and the region), and to identify and/or report if there is any untoward activity (particularly in terms of land clearing etc....)

There was a wide variety of topics and discussion covered - and numerous very informative handouts were provided - along with one including all the various links where these (and other areas of interest) can be found. *If anyone is interested in this information, feel free to contact SHCG and we will assist with putting you in touch.*

Important to note - DCCEE staff are bound by the legislation in everything they do (as is everyone) - and in particular :

- Local Land Services Act (pertains to rural zoned land and clearing activities)
- Biodiversity Conservation Act - irrespective of land tenure or zoning - re threatened or vulnerable species
- National Parks and Wildlife - pertaining to Aboriginal Heritage matters - also irrespective of Land tenure or zoning
- Environmental planning and Assessment Act
- Crown Land Management Act.

Discussions covered topics such as Regulated or Unregulated instances, subsequent category types, thresholds or status differences depending on timeline, allowable activities, where/when these allowables may be overridden by other codes etc..., and the impact of being able to prove definitive harm in order to prevent an activity.

## **PART A - STANDARD ITEMS**

### **1. Minutes of previous meeting:**

The minutes from Sept 2nd 2025 were deemed a true reflection of the meeting.

**Moved : JG    Seconded : TC**

### **2. Disclosure of interests (refer last page)**

No change since Feb 2025

### **3. Communications**

#### **a) Correspondence**

- NVC reply re" 4 Wheel Drive Track - advice that council will continue to fund repair work to maintain beach accessibility for the wider area into the future
- CC into email from Ray Fowkes to Council re: vehicle damage to Adin reserve grounds. General discussion, no action required from SHCG
- Email from Moira Ryan requesting approval for SHCG to cover the shortfall in funds for the Emergency signage that was put up near the bus stop. The group agreed to cover this shortfall, should council request payment. This matter was addressed out of session by the Executive Committee and ratified by the meeting.

#### **b) Communications (inc Newsletter, Website & Socials)**

- NOTA - story done by Mick Birtles on Bush Regeneration, with article on Beach Access Ramp pending
- NVC Skatepark funding - official announcement to be held Thurs 27 Nov on the Village Green, with the Mayor, the General Manager, the Director of Engineering, the Local Member, and Channel 7 local news.
- The final newsletter for the year is currently underway

#### **c) A huge **Thank you** !**

- For the Newsletter - to Alisha Cruikshanks
- For the Website - to Glen Schaefer

Our Treasurer (JH) applied his technical prowess to the issue of exec members encountering 'denied access' to the SHCG google docs and e-mail - and he has resolved the problem by removing a superfluous 'authorisation' requirement. It is once again fully available to the exec team - Thank you Jason!

## **A) Reports**

### **a) Chair - Tony Crimmins (TC)**

- Thank you to everyone for attendance at meetings and support throughout the year
- It feels like we are now making some progress with the majority of items that were previously on our 'to do list' having been addressed
- Membership – is an area that will need more attention next year
- Thanks to Executive Committee members for their tireless efforts over the past 12 months especially to our Secretary Deena who in addition to the agendas/minutes also

made a huge contribution to the monthly newsletter with a series of articles highlighting interesting local personalities

- Particular thanks to the Gardening Sub-committee for their efforts to maintain our wonderful community garden
- Thanks also to Alan Turner for his work initiating and continuing to drive the concept of the Bike/Walking Connection for inclusion in the Council Active Transport Strategy
- Great work by Reflections with significant improvements now becoming clearly visible across the Reserve - particularly in the areas of bush regeneration and the maintenance and upkeep of infrastructure
- Hard to believe that the funding has been approved and after so many years of trying Scotts Head will finally have a skate park
- Looking ahead to an exciting 2026 commencing with the preparation of a new Masterplan, the refurbishment of the Reserve Hall and consolidated focus on the Bike/Walking Connection.

#### **b) Vice Chair – Janet Granek (JG)**

- JG acknowledged that while it has been great to see so many projects come to fruition as a result of increasing cooperation and support with council, and also with Reflections, it might be time to now consult the strategic plan, to guide where we spend our energy, in terms of other projects and initiatives that are not as reliant on council or Reflections.
- JG is heading overseas for a month and is looking forward to a much needed holiday!

#### **c) Treasurer – Jason Howard (JH)**

##### General business account - 32831060:

Opening balance from last meeting: \$8,007.94

Changes: nil

Closing balance as at Nov 24, 2025: \$8,007.94

##### Gardening account - 02058166:

Opening balance from last meeting: \$2,963.77

Changes:

- Donations 21 Oct 2025 \$70.30
- Donations 18 Nov 2025 \$116.45
- Cost reimbursed 9 Oct 2025 (\$127.94)

Closing balance as at Nov 24, 2025: \$3,022.58

##### Skate-park fund account - 02063935:

Opening balance from last meeting: \$6,578.77

Changes: nil

Closing balance as at Nov 24, 2025: \$6,578.77

## Other items

TC and DG can now log into Gmail. Added JG mobile as second account verification option. Suggest we keep free account option for now and see if multiple people logging into one account can work.

Spoke with Newington representatives re support for bike trail. Can't see a reason why school wouldn't provide a letter of support at least. Identified Mark Morrison as best contact. Sent email and text and will keep chasing to do an intro to Alan Turner to follow up.

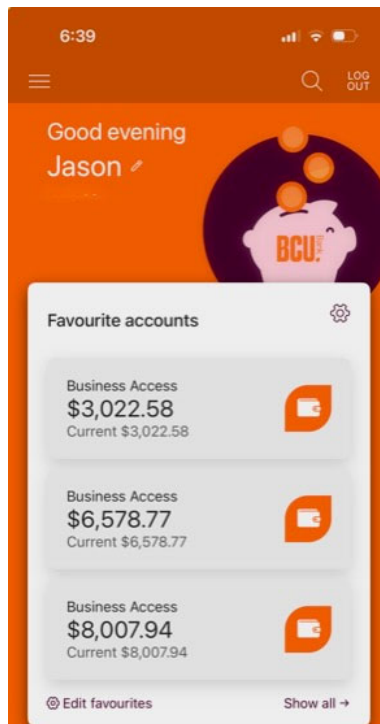
Started to look at a budget for 2026. Annual costs are approximately \$2,500 and in 2025 it looks like we will generate about \$1,700 in revenue. This looks like it is due to:

- Reduced paid memberships - 73 members in 2025 v 93 in 2024
- Lower Wave advertising - \$480 in 2025 v \$670 in 2024
- Club Scotts contribution of \$500 in 2024

Next steps for JH:

- Confirm revenue items in 2025
  - Speak to Elisha about Wave advertising process and space available for sales to set target
  - Action plan for membership drive in 2026
- Present draft 2026 budget to next meeting that targets break even at very least

### **Screenshot account balances as at 24 November 2025:**



#### **d) Secretary – Deena Gilroy (DG)**

- Issued the **Oct minutes** and the **Nov agenda** via email to the Chair, TC for SHCG-wide distribution.

#### **e) Public Officer – Richard Collins (RC)**

Richard advised:

- The NVC community grant that he'd put together (for additional Reserve Hall improvements and potential activities,) has been put on hold
- It was a very worthwhile exercise in terms of knowing what the process entails when we are ready to submit, but
- After some discussion it was agreed to wait until we know what funding and improvements we actually get for the Reserve Hall through the Reflections grant, first, and then tailor what else we may need around that.

#### **f) Gardeners Sub-Committee – George Driussi**

George advised :

- Now has full access to the BCU accounts and can monitor the status of the Gardening Account
- There has sadly been some damage in the gardens resulting from youth vandalism
- Details of plans for the Xmas BBQ in the Newsletter

### **5. Vote in New Members**

No new members this month.

## **PART B - NEW OR ONGOING ITEMS**

### **6. General or Ongoing Business**

1) AGM will be held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026

2) All positions will be up for election at the AGM and members are encouraged to give some thought to the contribution either themselves or others could make to serve our community and consider nominating for a role on the 2026 committee

3) It was agreed that, following an approach by the Scotts Head Art Prize Committee, the SHCG should investigate ways we could assist the committee with the coordination and delivery of this wonderful annual community event. To be further explored in 2026

4) Grants

- It is anticipated that following the announcement of the funding for the Skatepark, council will issue invoices for community donations and pledges of support in the near future
- SHCG provided a letter of support to council (at council's request) for grant funding toward improvements to pedestrian and vehicle management in Scotts Head - in identified high tourist volume areas such as Adin and Short streets.

## 7. Action Tracker

Meeting	Owner	Description & Status
25 Nov	Exec	Help prepare for, and attend, the SHCG fundraising activity to bolster the coffers, at the Surf Club on Jan 11 <sup>th</sup> . Also - make the most of this as an opportunity to recruit wider membership!
25 Nov	TC	Contact Cr Simpson to ascertain where the information on the Cycle Track proposal and options is sitting in council? - and seek advice regarding how best to proceed to ensure the best progress
25 Nov 07 Oct	JG	Get membership reminders underway - and look into new membership initiatives
08-Apr 25 Nov	RC	Reserve Hall - Pending confirmation of success of Reflections grant application for funds to complete proposed refurbishment, RC to manage messaging and community expectations (eg FB, website, Newsletter)
02 Sept	JH	Arrange an introduction with Mark Morrison at Newington College, and Allan Turner, to discuss further support and PR options for the cycle way project.
08-Apr	JG	Continue to attempt to engage with Jocelyn Box re: representation of the local Aboriginal community - ongoing
08-Apr	Reflections	It appears the issue of illegal campers has significantly abated, and the urgency to address it via the boom gate strategy has eased. Will revisit this option should it become problematic again in the future
08-Apr	TC	Research/locate evidence of a commitment toward the maintenance of Adin Street Reserve (Access filing cabinets with Moira Ryan)

Initials – Tony Crimmins (TC), Janet Granek (JG), Jason Howard (JH), Richard Collins (RC), Deena Gilroy (DG), Jacki Middleton (JM), George Driussi (GD)

### **PART C – Next Meeting dates**

Annual General Meetings, 6pm Tuesday – 10 February, 2026

**Refer page 1, PART A (2) - Disclosure of Interests** (last updated 11 Feb 2025)

Tony Crimmins	Member	Deputy Community Representative Gaagal Wanggaan Board of Management
---------------	--------	---

**Meeting closed: 8:20 pm**

---

Attachment - Cycle Track - status as at Nov 2025 - Allan Turner

### Keeping “Front of Mind” & “Testing the Resolve”

*It won't be fast or easy, it will take time and advocacy .... BUT all of this can happen.*

**Things are now in place so it's time to test the resolve .... to “bridge the creek” ..... making the active transport connection Scotts Head to Macksville possible and its catalytic potential realised!!**

The Scotts Head Community Group (SHCG) continues to partner with Nambucca Valley Council in planning a staged, safe, direct active transport connection between Scotts Head, Macksville and beyond. This sits within the Valley-wide Active Transport Strategy, now reflected in both Council's Community Strategic Plan 2035 and the SHCG Strategic Plan 2024–2029.

It is within this context that the active transport connection between Scotts Head and Macksville will be considered by Council. The proposal highlights the well-known social, economic and environmental benefits active transport will provide communities involved. It has garnered strong community backing and conditional support from Council and Destination North Coast.

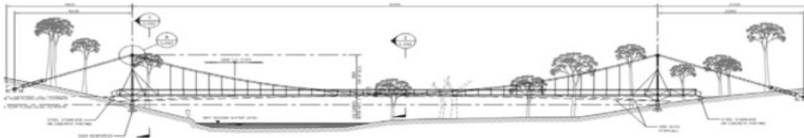
Through community consultation five options have been determined (Map displayed at The Wheelsmith Cycles, Macksville). As the proposed pathways cross Gumbaynggirr Country the SHCG will share the proposal with the Gumbaynggirr People and seek their support and feedback on the options, inviting the Gaagal Wanggaan Board of Management to consider opportunities the pathway could bring to acknowledge and celebrate Gumbaynggirr heritage and to ensure that the benefits of greater access to Gaagal Wanggaan (South Beach) National Park are realised and shared.

Given the Nambucca Valley's high SEIFA disadvantage ranking and Council's funding constraints, the SHCG has been exploring State and Federal funding options.

It has identified Transport for NSW's (TfNSW) [“Get NSW Active”](#) program as a key opportunity and is keen to support Council in preparing an application. TfNSW announced the opportunity on the 5th of November 2025 and applications close on the 12 December 2025 at 4.00pm. Examples of a successful application:

- **Detailed Design:** For a safe, direct and attractive cycling / walking connection for commuters and school students (North Sydney Council: \$326,275)
- **Get Kids Active:** Active Routes to School Initiative Grant program (Kempsey Council / South West Rocks Public School: \$50,000). A non-competitive grant.

A Councillor has been informed of this opportunity and it will be followed up and the outcome analysed (gauging resolve at all levels of Government), to inform future efforts in keeping the active transport connection “front of mind”.



**Figure 2. Elevation of the Warrell Creek suspension bridge over the flood plain section.**