



# MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM

A community-led monthly newsletter for Manly residents

February 2022

## Happy New Year!

Happy new year from the Manly Community Forum!

This year the Forum looks forward to support from our newly elected Councillors and our Local Member James Griffin, who is now the Minister for Environment and Heritage.

Our first Forum meeting for the year will be held via Zoom on Monday 21st February at 4.30pm; we hope to return to "in-person" meetings as soon as the pandemic allows. Councillors, State and Federal Members (and candidates as the Federal election campaigning gets into full swing) will be invited to Forum meetings as well as Northern Beaches Council (NBC) staff. Our team of Councillors representing Manly Ward (Candy Bingham, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Sarah Grattan and Councillor Georgia Ryburn) will hopefully attend all our meetings. Agenda items or questions you would like asked can be submitted through the Forum website or via email [secretary@manlycommunityforum.com](mailto:secretary@manlycommunityforum.com).

## Waste Management Fails in Market Lane

This is unacceptable! Every day of the week there is rubbish everywhere - commercial, retail, food and domestic - overflowing from every rubbish bin. The Council environmental compliance officer comes and takes notes but offers no resolution to this ongoing problem. Businesses are required to use their "bin rooms" to store their rubbish bins but not on collection day, which varies depending on the contractor. There are no public place bins, so takeaway food outlet patrons sneak their rubbish into the bins left waiting for private contractor collection, invariably not bothering to separate their rubbish and contaminating the paper bins with food waste. Takeaway containers etc are left on tables in the fenced area, patrons expecting others to clean up after them. We are all familiar with the problem, but what is the solution?

NBC has been receiving complaints about the rubbish situation in Market Lane for years. How can it still be unresolved? New businesses open and are told they must have a waste management plan but it appears none of these plans are effective or even followed. Council regularly consults with the public and other stakeholders such as the Manly Business Chamber and several business owners in the area, again with no resolution - just tidier rubbish bins for a short while. The NBC has many expert staff including place planners, planners who set the development

## AGENDA

- Waste management in Market Lane
- Manly Wharf, West Esplanade & the old aquarium site
- Marine Parade - Manly to Shelly Beach walkway
- The Corso nighttime economy - is this what residents want?
- Major development in Whistler Street Manly
- A revisit of parking in Manly CBD
- West Harbour Tunnel & Beaches Link
- Clean Up Australia Day - Sunday 6th March

control plan (DCP) rules, several waste educators, sustainability experts, environmental compliance officers, rangers and senior managers, not to mention the five or so waste contractors operating in the area and still no solution. Business as usual and everyone hopes the problem will go away.

And now with a DA in for the central area to be fenced off permanently as an outdoor venue, the rubbish problem seems even more intractable.

Possible solutions:

1. Install a public place bin in Market Lane.
2. Ban single-use takeaway items in the area. All food outlets should have washing-up facilities as well as a bin room as part of DA approval. Takeaway means takeaway and should not be consumed in the area at the tables provided. This would reduce waste.
3. Council finds a location in the vicinity for ALL bins domestic and commercial, and then charges a management fee for use of the bins and removal of the waste at the same time banning bins other than a public place bin in the area. And maybe some innovative waste management ideas can be considered to deal with all the rubbish.

Another possibility is a grant from the Environment Protection Authority where the ratepayers' annual waste levy goes back to Council for redistribution for such projects.

**NEXT MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM ZOOM MEETING IS MONDAY 21ST FEBRUARY AT 4:30PM.  
TO TAKE PART PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE AT [MANLYCOMMUNITYFORUM.COM](http://MANLYCOMMUNITYFORUM.COM) UNDER THE CONTACT TAB.**

## Marine Parade - Manly to Shelly

The State Government has put the focus squarely on the harbour side, challenging the Council to build the \$12 million boardwalk to attract more tourists, but the NBC has been assiduously promoting the Manly to Shelly walk, featuring it on its website, the *HelloManly* official Instagram page as the must-do activity in Manly. This promotion is great for local businesses who, of course, benefit greatly from the Council encouraging everyone to walk through the Corso and all the way to Shelly and back. But despite this the maintenance and thought given to improving the area is not front of mind. Council has recently completed the repair and consequent upgrade of the stormwater drain adjacent to the Fairy Bower pool, installing the award-winning habitat tiles along the side of the pool. Bouquet for this! But what about the rest of the almost 2 km walk? What works does this sign below refer to?



Let's consider some of the works that should be included in any master plan or maintenance regime starting from the sign shown above (now overgrown and behind the big new gate near the surf club) walking towards Shelly. Much of the mortar in the stone wall behind the seating and around the corner needs to be examined and perhaps repaired as well as reinforced.



## Marine Parade Continued...

And the stone wall on the ocean side below the post and rail fence that supports the path is looking a bit eroded and weathered. How long do we have to put up with the attractive red and white cloth wrapped around the star pickets near the big stone shell carving? The warning signs about falling rocks can remain, but how about landscaping the area to improve safety and perhaps moving the seat and heritage plaque so that it can be seen and appreciated. The path itself is a quaint combo of asphalt, concrete and stone, sewage access holes, and uneven surfaces patched to prevent falls, all with white lines, pictograms of bikes, people and speed limits painted with varying quality.



The number of compliance and interpretive signs has been reduced and some replaced with attractive photos and important information. But some remain, unreadable and graffitied. Compliance signs below the post and rail fence are completely worn and are now blank.



Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve at the Bower Lane is a very popular gathering spot for visitors and locals alike. Recently, after significant lobbying by the Forum, Sydney Water and the NBC repaired the stormwater infrastructure that was being undermined by the waves. But much could still be done to improve the area. The metal steps leading into the only "No Take Aquatic Reserve" in the State are dilapidated, requiring regular repairs. How many times have they been out of commission? Broken bollards and other poorly maintained infrastructure and landscaping are evident all the way along the walkway past the deteriorating boat ramp (incorporating ageing stormwater pipes) to the Boathouse restaurant and up to the carpark.



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## Manly Wharf, West Esplanade & Old Aquarium

Plans for Manly Cove, east and west, are open for comment, but so far comments have been focused on the reinstatement or otherwise of the boardwalk from Manly Wharf across the cove to Manly Pavilion. Views, pun intended, are divided. Mostly those nostalgic for their youthful days spent on the slides and the like want to see the boardwalk returned. This, they say, would give the youth of today somewhere to go and something to do. The Deputy Mayor has assured us that there will be a place for the kids to jump off safely into the harbour avoiding, of course, the ferries and many private boats. Others say leave it as it is, just get rid of the aquarium building and return that footprint to open space. Plans are to extend a promenade from this corner of the beach to the corner of the Pavilion and discussions are open for a wharf there for private watercraft. Council intends to remove the stairs at the western end of the beach and install an accessible ramp.

At the Wharf the plan is to extend or widen the boardwalk several metres between the fast ferry wharf and wharf number 3, providing a wide accessible covered seating area in front of the existing restaurants between the fast ferry wharf and the new wharf 3. There do not appear to be any plans to improve the small leased wharf currently used by the kayak hire business despite this area needing improvements to the ageing structure and rusting fence.

And finally, no word about the problems encountered by the new ferries being unable to use wharf 1 at low tide and thus having a 10-minute wait to get access to the already busy fast ferry wharf at peak hour. Those faster journeys from Circular Quay to Manly are not real in these circumstances. For more details visit the website <https://roads-waterways.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/manly-wharf-3-upgrade/index.html>



## Is The Corso Safe at Night?

Large groups of young men have been gathering in recent weeks on the grass near the front of Manly Town Hall and around the shop fronts on the Corso at 3am in the morning. Do the families of these young people know they are skylarking and causing problems on the Corso at this time of the morning? Police conduct patrols if they receive complaints from residents or business owners and have the resources but as the number gathering here is increasing and the antisocial behaviour getting more aggressive, we are concerned that no action is being taken to manage this. The question is what patrols are conducted after midnight in the Manly central areas and surrounds? The Manly Place Plan has included a study to consider the nighttime economy in the CBD and the Forum wonders if encouraging people to skylark on the Corso at 3am is part of the plan? The Forum representative will attend the next Community Safety Committee meeting and raise these issues with the police and rangers. Are patrols conducted after midnight and what action is being taken to address antisocial behaviour? Previously Manly Council conducted late night audits to determine the hot spots for antisocial behaviour and the actions necessary to reduce the negative outcomes of noise, damage, graffiti etc. We are still awaiting the audit which was promised immediately after amalgamation.

## Parking in Manly CBD

With the promise of the tunnel making it easier to avoid the traffic jams of Military Rd and Spit Bridge opening delays, it's probably a good time to revisit the old chestnut of Manly parking. Ivanhoe Park and Manly Oval have been saved, but where do you park when you visit Manly? And are we seriously expecting visitors and residents not to bring their vehicles into Manly? Are they all going to ride bikes or catch the promised new smaller, faster and more frequent ferries? A proposal was put to Council some years ago (and supported by some Councillors) to build a carpark on the edge of Manly, say in or under Keirle Park or Seaforth Oval, with a regular electric transport system operating from there to the CBD. But because it was in a floodplain or too far away it was dismissed as fanciful. The Manly 2015 Plan was then hatched to swap the ugly 400-space Whistler St carpark for a 750-space carpark under the Manly Oval. This plan was thwarted by popular protest and finally sent to the bin by amalgamation. But we still have no solution to the pressing problem of public parking in the Manly area. Is it time to revisit a carpark under Manly Oval?

## Welcome to The Agency Manly



The Agency are thrilled to announce the appointment of Jake Rowe and his team in joining them on the Northern Beaches. Jake is an established agent with over 30 years of real estate experience and is one of the top agents in the country.

This is a strategic merger and we look forward to seeing the continued success of Jake's sales results coupled with our National brand on the Northern Beaches.

**The Agency Manly**  
Shop 1, 22 Darley Road  
Manly NSW 2095  
[theagency.com.au](http://theagency.com.au)

**Jake Rowe**  
0414 612 546  
[jakerowe@theagency.com.au](mailto:jakerowe@theagency.com.au)

THE AGENCY

## Clean Up Australia Day - Sunday 6 March



The Forum has been conducting the annual Cleanup Australia day for more than 20 years at Little Manly Beach, Little Manly Point Park and more recently East Esplanade Park. This year we intend to add Shelly Beach/Fairy Bower and West Esplanade.

Clean Up Australia Day 2022 will be held on Sunday the 6th March from 9am to 12pm. We need volunteers to coordinate and staff the collection points. We need at least one person to register volunteers at each location and then record the efforts and general types of rubbish collected. This is important information for research into litter types to support better waste management and education. We have some gear, but we suggest bringing your own gloves, and a set of long BBQ tongs (excellent for picking up butts and small bits of litter as well as saving your back!). Wear a hat and sunscreen. If you can spare half an hour or the whole morning, many hands make light work, and we can all make a positive contribution to our beautiful local environment. Children are welcome if supervised by their parents or carers. There will be media coverage of this event, which is great for Manly.

Send an email to [secretary@manlycommunityforum.com](mailto:secretary@manlycommunityforum.com) with your name and preferred location if you and any friends or family can help staffing the tent as a coordinator for any length of time. Pack-up is midday with a return to Little Manly for a debrief and a coffee or snack.

## Whistler St Major Development

The new high-rise development in Whistler St is 4.71m higher than the maximum height of 25m permitted in the 2013 Manly Local Environment Plan. This height increase was not supported by the local planning panel but was subsequently approved by the Land and Environment Court. This 7-storey development is across from the 19-storey Manly National Building which represented the beginning of the former Manly Council adopting the current CBD building height restriction of 25m. As land values increase, we can expect more applications that will challenge the maximum building heights. Current development applications for the Steyne Hotel and the Royal Far West site challenge these height restrictions. The NBC is now actively considering a new Local Environment Plan as part of its "harmonising" process.

## Brickbats & Bouquets

- Brickbats to Council for not starting any of the promised works on Little Manly Beach, Little Manly Point toilet and playground or Craig Ave boat ramp.
- Brickbat to Council for not removing the fence around the platform and fig tree on East Esplanade.
- Bouquet to the founder of Street Side Medics, Dr Daniel Nour, as Young Australian of the Year 2022. Street Side Medics come to Darley Rd, Manly regularly and provide an invaluable service to the less advantaged in our community.
- Bouquet to Rotary for its latest project, Food Drive at Coles Local. Simply add something extra to your shopping trolley and drop it in the Food Drive box on the way out.

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