

# MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM

*A community led monthly newsletter for Manly residents*

March 2025

## De-silting the sewer line to North Head

The Northern Suburbs Ocean Outfall Sewer, commonly known as the NSOOS, extends from Blacktown to North Head. The 3.5-meter-high, 2.6-meter-wide tunnel runs along the north side of the Parramatta River and was constructed between 1916 and 1933, mostly through deep underground rock. When it was built, concrete was used to line the NSOOS and protect the rock from corrosion caused by wastewater and sewage.

This 28km-long NSOOS collects around 25% of Sydney's total sewage each day.

The concrete lining has now deteriorated, resulting in large pieces falling from the roof of the sewer tunnel and it is now sitting on the tunnel floor, collecting further silt and debris (including poo, wet wipes and any number of other things put down the toilets of Sydney) reducing the capacity and efficiency of the system. Work inside the sewer to restore it to its optimum condition has been ongoing over the past few years. Sydney Water has developed custom made machines that can be driven through the wastewater tunnel by specialist workers to remove the debris. New spray-on abrasion-resistant concrete has been applied to the roof and walls.

Since 2017 Sydney Water has de-silted and rehabilitated approximately 10 km of the tunnel between Lane Cove and Cammeray and in 2024 the Cremorne to the Spit section was completed. Overflows at the Spit during an extreme wet weather event caused delays as the priority shifted to resolve these pollution issues in Middle harbour near Clontarf. The final section of the NSOOS to be de-silted is the section from Clontarf to North Head.

While this rehabilitation work is underway, some of the wastewater will be redirected to the Northside Storage Tunnel (NST). But parts of this tunnel also need to be cleaned out underground at the North Head facility so it can continue operating successfully as a diversion to the NSOOS to prevent overflows into the harbour. Work to clean this tunnel has been occurring over recent months. All the silt and debris removed is then processed at the treatment plant at North Head, where the sludge is dried and removed as bio solids in trucks to be composted and processed for use in agriculture.

## MARCH AGENDA

- Postponed to May meeting - AVEO & NSW Property presentation on proposal for the North Head Health and Wellbeing precinct
- Sydney Water local works
- 2025 priorities Council updates

## NEXT MEETING

**MONDAY**

**17 March 2025**

**7PM MANLY YACHT CLUB**

**editor: Cathy Griffin**

**secretary@manlycommunityforum.com**

The teams doing this dirty but essential work will be accessing the NSOOS via several locations along Darley Rd. Sydney Water will be excavating a cavern at the treatment plant for the floating de silting digger machinery to be lowered 90m to the tunnel. Access points are also planned for Bluefish Rd just past the pedestrian crossing on the left side, opposite Manly Hospital and at the bottom of Darley Rd.

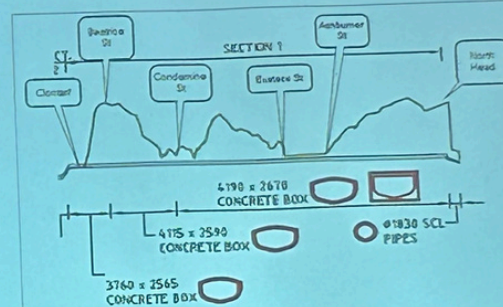
## NSOOS Section 1 CCTV

NSOOS Section 1 (4m wide, 2.7m high) runs from Clontarf to North Head WRRF – approximately 7km. Runs flat, dropping 2.5m over this section.

To track the NSOOS roof deterioration, we are conducting a CCTV of NSOOS Section 1 on an annual basis.

We use a floating camera and sonar scanner to also measure debris.

The sections with most deterioration are downstream of Ashburner St.



**OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON MONDAY 17 MAR 25 AT 7PM AT THE MANLY YACHT CLUB**

# Manly health and wellbeing precinct at 150 Darley Rd

## a brief History of the site

1919 - A public meeting in the Manly Town Hall resulted in 4.86 hectares of land being transferred to NSW from the Commonwealth Government for the establishment of the Manly Peace Memorial Hospital, as a permanent tribute to the men who fought in the Great War.

1926 - A tender was received for the construction of the Manly Peace Memorial Hospital at a cost of £52,6484. The final cost of the first stage amounted to £87,000.

1931 - The Manly Peace Memorial Hospital opened after years of delays due to funding shortages for essential services such as nurses' accommodation, x-ray facilities, laundry, refrigeration, etc.

1939 - Renamed as Manly District Hospital, it received a £3000 donation to establish a ward for paralysed children.

1952 - Construction of a 40-bed aluminium pre-fabricated building for a Maternity Unit was completed.

1956 - The Thoracic Block for patients with chest complaints was inaugurated in the North Wing.

1969 - An Intensive Care, Recovery, and Central Sterile Services Department (CSSD) ward was established.

1971 - Local fundraising enabled the provision of a hydrotherapy pool.

1976 - The five-floor South Wing opened, featuring new operating theatres, catering facilities, and two surgical wards.

1983 - A sixteen-bed Rehabilitation Unit commenced operations.

1992 - The East Wing opened, accommodating a 20-bed psychiatric unit and a 10-bed drug and alcohol unit, replacing the 13-bed unit built 60 years earlier.

2013 - Announcement that Manly Hospital would close once the new hospital in Frenchs Forest was completed, scheduled for 2018.

2014 - Following the closure of the hospital in 2015, it was declared that the 6.2-hectare site would be zoned for health and environmental conservation uses only, eliminating any plans for housing.

2015 - The local Manly Hospital Project Steering Advisory Committee was formed to identify potential health and well-being opportunities for the site, including members from the former Manly Hospital Community Advisory Group and departmental representatives as well as community representatives.

2018 - The NSW Government committed \$2 million to developing a hospice for young adults, encouraging community involvement in raising funds.

2018 Manly Hospital closed as the new Northern Beaches Hospital opened in Frenchs Forest.



The original Manly Hospital was built between 1920 and 1928

2018 - A Project Steering Advisory Committee (PSAC) was established to develop future uses and a master plan for the site. The PSAC includes members from the Department of Planning Industry and Environment (DPIE), Northern Beaches Council, Northern Sydney Local Health District, National Parks and Wildlife Services, and local community members.

2020 - The State Government sought community feedback on the proposed concept master plan.

2022 - The State Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) launched an Expressions of Interest (EOI) campaign to identify a delivery partner to transform the former Manly Hospital site into a health and well-being precinct. Several organisations entered discussions to become the delivery partner, working with DPE and the community to develop a master plan and site-specific Development Control Plan (DCP) to meet the needs of the Northern Beaches and greater Sydney metropolitan area.

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# Manly Hospital Site continued



2023 - Northern Beaches Council submitted a proposal for rezoning from Special Uses Hospital to allow for other uses on the site.

2023 The Manly Adolescent and Young Adult Hospice (AYAH), Australia's first dedicated service for young people with life-limiting illnesses, was completed. Funded largely by donations, the \$19.5 million hospice provides respite care, symptom management, and end-of-life facilities for patients aged 15 to 24.

2024 - The planning proposal to amend the Manly Local Environmental Plan 2013 and State Environmental Planning Policy (Precincts – Eastern Harbour City) 2021 was approved. This facilitates the redevelopment of the site as a 'health and well-being precinct' while preserving its ecological and heritage values. Development can now include a Health and Wellbeing precinct, group homes, seniors housing, community facilities, respite day care centre, and education establishments, catering to a diverse community. Seniors housing is designed for seniors and people with disabilities, including residential care facilities, independent living units, or hostels staffed by support workers.

2025 - Aveo was announced as the NSW Property Development Partner for the site.

# Fun facts

- The site is approximately 6 hectares.
- 42% of the site will be designated as usable open space.
- The maximum proposed building height is RL81.8 (current height of existing building)
- Basement car parking is planned to minimise surface traffic.
- Just one building on the site—the former Main Ward block, or Building Two—is currently heritage-listed.
- The façade and portico are the only remaining significant element of Building One and should be retained and conserved, possibly as part of a new building.
- Building 15—most recently used for occupational therapy but originally the two-storey brick kitchen block— is considered to have “high” heritage significance
- The endangered Littoral Rainforest located below the cliff line to Collins Flat must be protected.



9 Bruce Avenue **Manly**



61 Seaforth Crescent **Seaforth**

## THE AGENCY

### Considering Selling?

Jake and his team have a proven track record of successfully selling properties across Manly and the lower Northern Beaches. From entry-level apartments to luxury homes, they handle sales across all price points.

If you're thinking about selling or would like a property appraisal, call Jake.



**Jake Rowe**

jakerowe@theagency.com.au

0414 612 546

Shop 1, 22 Darley Rd, Manly NSW 2095

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# MCF Cleaning up Australia day team



## Marine Parade update

Council staff from several teams, including those in stormwater, construction & maintenance, transport & civil infrastructure, as well as arts & culture are currently reviewing restoration options and works to fix the patchwork of asphalt on the Manly to Shelly walkway and the Bower Lane roadway, kerb and footpath. This multi team effort reflects the multiple works, and potential works that are planned for the area. Sydney Water has contributed funds for the works as part of the 'make good' provisions after digging the path and road up last year. This will take time as the teams collaborate submit a plan then wait for funding. We can also expect new wayfinding and compliance signs to be installed as part of this renewal work. The date of any works remains unknown, but at least they are working on it. In the meantime the MCF has requested that council 'blitz' the walkway to ensure compliance of the current signage which prohibits bikes on the weekends, fishing in the bay and dogs off leash.

## Brickbats and Bouquets

- **Bouquet** to the MCF team for Cleanup Australia Day at Little Manly beach. Little Manly beach is one of the original Cleanup Australia sites.
- **Brickbat** to the teenagers who swarm along East Esplanade and up Stuart St from the Manly Wharf to Little Manly Point leaving a trail of litter along the way and then leave more rubbish as well as their damp towels and dirty clothing in the bush a jump rock.
- **Bouquet** to the Sydney Water and NP&Ws for resurfacing Bluefish Road at North Head.
- **Brickbat** to the Councillors north of the Manly Ward for demanding the very reliable Hop Skip Jump bus be scrapped.
- **Big Bouquet** to the guys working to de-silt the sewage tunnel from Clontarf to North Head 90 meters underground.
- **Brickbat** to e bike riders for no helmets, too many on the ebikes, riding too fast, no idea about road rules.
- **Bouquet** to the volunteer Bushcare team who have successfully removed thousands of pampas plants from the National Park at North Head over the past few months.

## Little Manly Point bridge

The NSW Government Office of Strategic Lands (OSL) is currently considering cost estimates for the decommissioning of the bridge at Little Manly Point. Consideration includes a proposal by the Penguin Wardens and NP&WS to create a boat landing facility as part of these works. Council is likely to oversee the project, and associated landscaping works, on behalf of OSL.



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