



MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM

A community-led monthly newsletter for Manly residents

August 2021

Council Elections Postponed Again

Council elections have now been postponed a second time. Delayed the first time due to COVID for 12 months until September 2021 and now again until 4th of December 2021. The caretaker period won't commence until November so it will be business as usual for the next few months. This means that the current Northern Beaches Councillors will have an additional two meetings, 28 September and 26 October 2021. The election of the Mayor will be held at the September meeting and they will serve for the extended three months.

The NSW Electoral Commission is working on processes and policies to enable a COVID-safe election. Visiting polling booths should be the exception as iVote (electronic voting) will be available for the first time in the local council elections. The NSW Government has also implemented changes to pre-poll to ensure that voters have 13 days to cast their ballot, reducing congestion on polling day. There are approximately 350,000 voters on the Northern Beaches and even with spreading out the election over three weeks with pre-polling and postal votes Northern Beaches council should be encouraging minimising the need for crowded polling booths and supporting electronic voting.

So far, in the Manly Ward we will be spoilt for choice with each of the three political parties plus local independent groups fielding candidates: Liberal Georgia Ryburn, Labor Sam Pigram, Greens Pam Dawes, Good For Manly Candy Bingham, Your Northern Beaches Sarah Gratton and Manly 1st John Kelly. Google them or check out their Facebook pages. All would be excellent representatives for our local Manly community.

The Forum intends to invite them to a candidate forum in October or November. If you are interested, please submit any questions or issues you would like them to address in this session to secretary@manlycommunityforum.com We will publish some of the themes arising in our October newsletter.

Forum Commemorative Picnic Table

At the last Forum meeting the Forum agreed to donate a bench and picnic table to be placed at Little Manly Beach to celebrate the strength of our community. We will be discussing the location of this park furniture with Council, but initial suggestions are that it be located at the rear of the park in the shade near the water tank. This area is popular with families but could do with a bit of

AGENDA

- Council Elections - postponed Candidate Forum to October
- Royal Far West Stage 3 & 4 development
- Manly Place Plan update
- Footpath update

cleaning up particularly around the water tank, and landscaping to extend and improve access to the area.

We are seeking interested community members to participate in this project. Let us know if you have any ideas or would like to be involved via the secretary@manlycommunityforum.com.



Cliff St Pedestrian Refuge

Finally Council has listened to the community and will be removing this recently installed piece of road infrastructure! After repairing it twice, Council has now realised what everyone has been saying for a while.

While it was not needed, installing it there made the left turn from Darley Rd into Cliff St impossible to navigate safely without mounting the footpath or the refuge itself. It will be replaced by a pedestrian crossing. Work is to begin soon.

**NEXT MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM ZOOM MEETING IS MONDAY 16TH AUGUST 4:30- 6PM.
TO TAKE PART PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE AT MANLYCOMMUNITYFORUM.COM UNDER THE CONTACT TAB.**

Royal Far West Development

While everyone's focus has been on the gaudy signage of Chemist Warehouse on the Corso and demanding that Council do something about it, signage around the corner has been exploding all over the Royal Far West site.



As it happens neighbours in the area have received a notice of a 'Proposed Modification' of the RFW plans to develop the site. This coincides with the retirement of Lindsay Cane AM after many years as the CEO of the Royal Far West and her subsequent appointment as the RFW Project Director and Client Representative of the \$300 million RFW beachfront redevelopment.

The Royal Far West Concept for Development was approved in 2013 by the NSW Department of Planning. Since then, the Royal Far West has completed Stage 1 and 2 which was to demolish the old Elsie Hill building and build its world leading Centre for Child Health and Learning. In addition, No 16 South Steyne (now the new South Steyne Medical Centre) has been sold, no longer forming part of the RFW site. In addition, the old NSW Department of Education Royal Far West school building opposite the Whistler St car park entry previously owned by the State Government NSW Department of Education has been closed and ownership transferred to the Royal Far West Charity.

To check the details google NSW Major Projects Royal Far West. The details of modification proposal is the last document in the Application and Declaration folder.

Now with Stages 3 and 4 about to be commence, and the original

Royal Far West Continued...

Planning Assessment Commission requiring some changes, the community has until the 30th of August 2021 to comment on a proposal to amend the original Concept Plan. This plan was for a mixed use development with associated hospital facility, indicative building envelopes for buildings to a maximum height of 8 storeys, tourist and visitor accommodation, residential, retail/commercial and hospital medical uses to a maximum FSR of 3:1, basement car parking for 184 car spaces, and landscaping areas.

The RFW appointed Murcutt Candalepas Architects for this project and they have identified that the outcomes sought by the RFW design brief, together with the modification requirements at Part B of the Concept Approval, cannot be achieved without modifying the arrangement of approved uses, the approved building envelopes in terms of heights and setbacks, the scope of works to Drummond House and the associated Heritage Conservation Management Plan (CMP).

The new amended plan has taken account of the Planning Assessment Commission report and confirms that in relation to required modelling of the intersection of South Steyne and Wentworth St and the entry/exit off Wentworth St (opposite the entry to the Council car park) it has been resolved to remove this secondary vehicular access point from Wentworth St.

The RFW has confirmed that the proposed modifications do not involve a hotel use or proposals for any licensed premises.

In brief the modification proposal seeks to modify the Royal Far West Concept Plan, including:

- Changes to the approved building envelopes, including building layout, heights and setbacks
- Demolition of the rear of Drummond House and replacement with a new Royal Far West guest accommodation building
- Conversion of the approved hotel and commercial use building to a residential and commercial use building
- Changes to the ground floor retail fronting South Steyne, including addition of pedestrian connections to a new publicly accessible courtyard
- Extension of the basement car park
- Increasing the total number of residential apartments from 46 to 58.



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Changes to Bower St Parking

Council has decided to introduce permanent all-year-round 'No Parking' on the northern side of Bower St from the bottom of the street to the crest of the hill. This will be a loss of 18 parking spots, but will assist the traffic flow, especially in summer, by allowing two lanes free to and from Shelly beach.

Residents have long been frustrated by the blocked single lane of traffic travelling up Bower St and then returning from Shelly beach after not being able to find a parking spot there. The promised installation of sensor parking in Shelly beach to let drivers know the number of available parking spots in the carpark before they travel up Bower Street has been delayed by Council. This is apparently to allow Council to let a single tender for sensor parking in all locations across the Northern Beaches. Meanwhile we will enjoy the quieter streets during the colder months for now.

East Esp Pedestrian Crossing

After much lobbying by the Forum, Council has agreed to remove the parking spot closest to the pedestrian crossing on the southern (park) side of the road. This will make it safer for pedestrians crossing, particularly at night, who can't be seen till the last minute before setting foot on the crossing.

Counting the Swimmers in Cabbage Tree Bay

Two local residents and Friends of Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve (FOCTBAR) Volunteers, who have a bird's eye view of the Bay, are conducting a count of swimmers in the Bay over the next few months and into summer. We will be submitting this information to the Council and State Government to support the contention that boats should not be permitted in the Bay.

The number of swimmers, snorkelers and divers has increased dramatically in the past few years and there are safety concerns as boat numbers increase into summer. The mid-winter July 2021 numbers range from 50 to 180 swimmers at 7.30am and 75 to 100 at 12:30pm even though the water temperature has been about 16 degrees! The Bold and Beautiful recorded from 150 to 350 swimmers per day over the same period.

It is hoped that a more comprehensive count can be undertaken post-lockdown when FOCTBAR is back at Shelly Beach.

Brickbats & Bouquets

- Bouquets to all the people who are doing the right thing exercising solo on their paddle boards, kayaks and bikes as well as swimming, walking and running.
- Brickbats to those who continue to congregate in large groups in public spaces like Little Manly Beach and at the main beach along South Steyne.
- Bouquet to Kim Smee for keeping us all up-to-date with the latest on local COVID-19 reporting numbers via the *Manly Observer*.
- Bouquet to Council staff for the very quick repair to the metal steps into Cabbage Tree Bay at Bower Ln. The quick repair of the bottom metal step, which broke again and left dangerous sharp edges for unsuspecting swimmers and divers below the water during high tide, is appreciated.



Jake Rowe specialises in selling properties in Manly. He has been selling properties in the area for the past 18 years and has sold over 350 properties in the suburb during this time.

He would be delighted to assist you if you are thinking of selling or renting your property in Manly.



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Brickbats & Bouquets Contd....

- Big Bouquet for everyone getting their vaccine. As at the first week of August, the Northern Beaches was in 5th place out of 28 LGAs for 47.7% overall for one dose and 9th place for 20.9 % fully vaccinated.

These numbers will only get better as appointments are now available in several medical centres in our local area including the new South Steyne Medical Centre, Malouf's Pharmacy and the Starchem Pharmacy on the Corso.



Former Manly Hospital Project

The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE), Property and Development NSW (being a division of Property NSW; PDNSW) are calling for Registrations of Interest (ROI) from experienced parties to potentially lease or licence portions of the former Manly Hospital.

The ROI is open until September 2021.

DPIE is working collaboratively with the Project Steering Advisory Committee (PSAC) to develop a master plan for future uses of the site. The PSAC incorporates NSW Health, the Northern Sydney Local Health District and community stakeholders, .

The master plan will focus on delivering health and wellbeing-related uses, as well as a mix of open and community spaces, neighbourhood-scale shops, and food and drink offerings.

The plan will also look at developing an adaptive re-use strategy for the existing heritage buildings.

This is a great new opportunity for businesses, community groups, not-for-profits and other interested parties to help build a new health and wellbeing precinct in Sydney's Northern Beaches.

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