



# MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM

A community-led monthly newsletter for Manly residents

MAY 2021

## No Brickbats but a Massive Bouquet

**Adolescent & Young Adult Hospice starts to take shape.**

Local State Member, James Griffin attended the ceremonial 'sod turning' to celebrate the commencement of the build for the Adolescent and Young Adult Hospice (AYAH).

James was accompanied by major donors to the project Dr Gregory Poche and Kay Van Norton-Poche, community and Council representatives including members of the Manly Community Forum, and State Government dignitaries, who have worked towards securing the old Manly Hospital site for community health and wellbeing services.

The AYAH is the first of the health and well-being services planned for this site.

## New Toilets at Little Manly Point

Council has published plans for the long-awaited toilet amenity at Little Manly Point. Check it out along with the playground upgrade on the *Your Say* page on the Council website.

The location chosen meets several criteria for a public toilet; it is close to a road and carpark enabling passive surveillance as well as wheeled access for anyone who might need it. It is adjacent to a busy path and easily visible, yet not intrusive, for park and playground users. The area also makes construction easy as it is a flat area, has no trees and is close to power, water and sewage infrastructure.

We look forward to the speedy construction of this much needed amenity after the consultation period.

## AGENDA

- Council's 4-year delivery plan update
- Manly CBD business rate levy
- Little Manly works update
- Shelly Beach & Marine Parade works update
- East Esplanade

## Little Manly Point Playground Update

Local playground users are excited to see the plans that should improve the utility and amenity of the current playground.

The replacement of the boundary fence with a safety fence and improved landscaping with the inclusion of the nature trail are highlights.

The addition of a picnic table and additional seating is welcomed.

Council should perhaps reconsider the location of the bike rack and leave the plinth where it is. The inclusion of some racks for small kids bikes would also be welcomed.

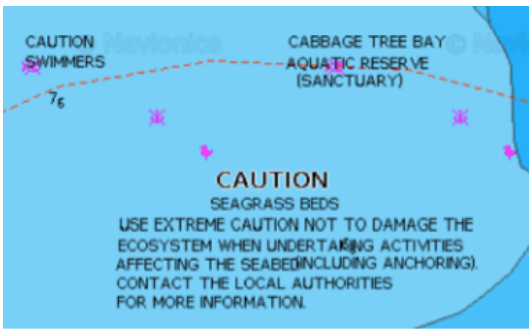
Fingers crossed that Council will remove all the weedy scratchy Lomandra and tree sucklings that surround the playground and open the area up with some turf or other surface.

**NEXT MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM ZOOM MEETING IS MONDAY 17TH MAY 4:30 - 6:30PM.  
TO TAKE PART PLEASE EMAIL [KANDYTAGG@GMAIL.COM](mailto:kandytagg@gmail.com) OR REGISTER ON THE WEBSITE**

# Boats or No Boats?

The Boat Owners Association of NSW has been actively lobbying against the local community of swimmers, divers and snorkelers who would like to see boats banned in Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve.

James Griffin currently has a petition on his website. [https://www.jamesgriffinmp.com/further\\_protect\\_cabbage\\_tree\\_bay](https://www.jamesgriffinmp.com/further_protect_cabbage_tree_bay). He has said that he wants to 'amend the regulation making it clear that anchoring is prohibited in the bay area where sea grass exists'. The boat owners fail to understand that there is huge local support for such a ban. Not only are swimmers at risk, but everyone is pretty much on side when it comes to protecting the seagrass and amazing ecosystem we have in the marine sanctuary from damage caused by anchoring. Progress is being made with the NAVIONICS Boating Marine and Lakes app being amended to reflect our concerns on the map of the CTBAR, warning boaties to 'use extreme caution not to damage the ecosystem...' Please take the time to sign the petition and protect the seagrass, swimmers, snorkelers and divers.



# Shark Nets to Go

There was another call to remove the shark nets in favour of more modern and effective methods at this month's Council meeting. Unfortunately, the Council report with the planned submission to the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Fisheries five-year review did not reflect the community's desire to see the shark nets removed from the beaches along our coast. Fortunately, the Councillors picked this up and amended the resolution which was unanimously supported after speakers Layne Beachley (local surf champ), Malin Fick (Northern Beaches Cleanup crew and Sea Shepherd Australia), and Lawrence Chlebeck (Humane Society) all spoke passionately about the need to save the marine animals including dolphins, turtles and whales from being caught and killed in the nets. Very few 'target species' sharks have been caught in the nets over the past five years.



DPI Fisheries will now consider its report and feedback from the consultation and hopefully act to not install the nets next year now that they have been removed for the winter.



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## North Head Heading for a Makeover

Consultation continues on North Head with both the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust and National Parks and Wildlife providing opportunities to comment on their respective plans for different parts of North Head / Car-rang-gel.

The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust is inviting locals to continue the discussion on its very grand plans in the new Draft Concept for the North Head Sanctuary. <https://haveyoursay.awe.gov.au/north-head-sanctuary-draft-concept>.



There will be a range of opportunities to participate: virtual workshops, pop-up stalls and a survey. Take the opportunity to review these grand plans for two of the significant precincts on the Trust's land which include an environmental education centre, architecturally designed Interpretive centre and much more. Check out the website for details.

None of this is 'funded', however there are discussions happening with the Northern Beaches Council to establish the Environment Centre in one of the buildings in the North Fort precinct.

Ratepayers may be a little mystified at such a proposal given that it is not on or in Council controlled property. Such a Centre will require lease payments for the building and then approvals and licences from the Trust to operate in the area.

## North Head Makeover Continued...

Perhaps Council should explore other options in its own Local Government Area before committing to this venture.

National Parks and Wildlife are also seeking feedback on its more modest plans for The North Head Scenic Area upgrade which is intended to enhance the visitor experience.

The plan will improve visitor access and safety through the reconfiguration of car parks, installation of pedestrian crossings and more accessible parking spaces, as well as a new bus stop and extended landscaped space for visitors to enjoy views across the harbour.

Pedestrian access and improvements to the Fairfax Walking Track which is currently closed are also included. Funds have been committed by the State Government and the works will likely be finished before the end of this year.

You can submit your comments via the online form. Comments close 17 May 2021.

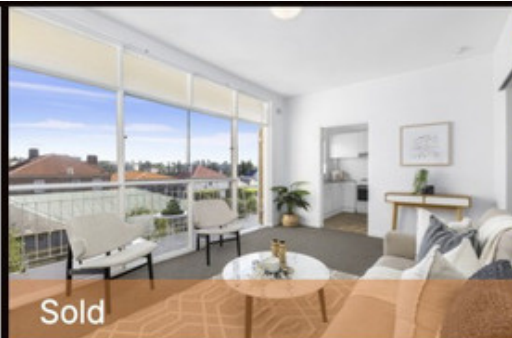


<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/park-management/community-engagement/north-head-upgrade>.



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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## Echidnas Out & About Looking for Love

The echidna pictured below on Wood St is one of many recently reported to National Parks and Council staff. It started its wander at the top of Marshall St and has checked into many front and back gardens on his way down the hill to Little Manly.



Echidna numbers are increasing all over North Head, likely due to the reduction in fox numbers, and have been reported at Shelly and Little Manly. We are seeing them now as they feed, look for a mate and prepare for the breeding season, June through to September.

There is plenty of 'habitat corridor' for these local echidnas so please leave them alone, watch them go about their ant eating business and enjoy their funny waddle.

## Echidnas Continued...

They can move very quickly and should be guided off the roads rather than picked up. Echidnas are extremely difficult to pick up and will somehow 'clamp' themselves onto the road or path or dig themselves into a hole where they can avoid any interference.

Never put an echidna into the back of your car or on your car seat, even in a box, as its ability to hold on and burrow may tear or damage mats or upholstery.

This is also a timely reminder to keep your cats in at night and dogs on a leash. If you find an injured echidna, please call Wires or National Parks and Wildlife.

## Resolving your Issues with Council

Have you ever wanted to draw the Council's attention to something? An annoying pothole in the middle of the road, a noisy barking dog in the neighbourhood, a trip hazard, report dumped rubbish?

It is easy to log onto the Council website. Just google Northern Beaches Council on your phone or computer and click on 'Customer Service' and select from the long list of topics. Complete your name and email and then outline your issue and upload a photo if possible. Council will respond with an email and case number for tracking purposes. This is the best way to get things done or at least get a response from Council.

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