

MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2020

The *Manly Daily* as a free print newspaper is finished. It's a huge loss that weakens community cohesion and the oversight of building developments and council actions.

Manly Community Forum will work to expand our presence. We have increased our writing team, and are now on Facebook. We cover news on Little Manly, Fairy Bower and The Corso. Controversial issues on Development Applications (DAs) will also be covered on our website.

But we can't do it without your help.

Get our emails and online newsletter by signing up to our Facebook page *Manly Community Forum*. You can also find more information on our website www.manlycommunityforum.com.

We won't share your email or send you spam. We are non-partisan and run by volunteers.

**Please join us at our next meeting via Zoom: Monday 15th June at 4.30 pm
To take part, please email kandytagg@gmail.com.**

GOODBYE KIOSK HELLO RIPPLES

Little Manly Kiosk looks set for a makeover and many local residents won't be happy. New café operator Bill Drakopoulos plans to turn the beachside kiosk into a Ripples up-market eatery. Drakopoulos told *goodfood* magazine in December last year, "It'll be a 20-seat Ripples doing breakfast and lunch and a twilight dinner...BJB [architects] will oversee a refurb [in winter]. It's BYO, a stunning location."

While the other Ripples venues at Milsons Point and Mosman are popular many locals loved Little Manly Kiosk for its simple, dog-friendly, kid-friendly style and the fact that it was opened at regular hours every day except in extreme weather. The Forum has been worried the kiosk would be altered and upscaled since the Council-owned venue changed operators late last year, although senior

Council staff tell us any changes will be limited. Council advise that any building extension, which would be limited to the existing lease footprint, would have to go out for public consultation.

The venue can not operate outside the previously agreed hours of 7 am to 10 pm Thursday to Saturday and 7 am to 4 pm Sunday; a liquor license would not be approved; and a BYO only license would require Council agreement after community consultation.

The Forum has asked for details of the brief provided to the independent analysts who assessed a range of tender bids to take over the Little Manly venue before making a recommendation to the Council.

The community was not part of the decision process. And to add insult to injury, a community consultation on leasing the venue was carried out by the Council after the lease had already been granted.



NEXT ZOOM MEETING Monday 15th June at 4:30 pm. Please email kandytagg@gmail.com to take part.

PROJECTS PROCEEDING & WITH BUDGET COMMITMENT

Little Manly Harbour Tidal Swimming Pool

The pool is now completely demolished and the new pool delayed due to weather impact. However, the barge and pylon driving machinery is back at Store Beach and we expect a recommencement this week. No delays are expected to the plan to have the pool back in order for the coming swimming season.

East Esplanade Park & Amenities Block

Groundwork for the new block, sewage, power and stormwater management, as well as heritage tree root protection measures are approaching completion. Relocation of the commemorative plaque and stand is well underway and the swings and tables will be repositioned when the amenities block is complete. Some concern has been expressed over the condition of the park generally including the seats and tables and the sandstone surrounds. Pressure cleaning of the surrounds is due this month. Some seeding has been completed to supplement the grass, but Council will always struggle to maintain grass around the shaded and high use areas. (Artificial grass is not preferred, but may be an option.) Tables and seats were repaired and repainted in 2019 but are beginning to look worn. Some damage has occurred from exercising groups.

Fairy Bower Ocean Pool Stormwater Improvements

Repairs to the Fairy Bower pool stormwater drain will create an extension of the pool surrounds and boost the environment for the tidal zone aquatic creatures. The project to be carried out by Council will replace the

PROJECTS PROCEEDING CONTINUED

battered old stormwater pipe at the west end of the pool with a large concrete box culvert. The drainage channel will be bigger, and the top of the culvert will provide much more space for pool users. As a bonus, the side of the culvert will be transformed into a "living seawall" by the addition of structural concrete tiles to provide tiny habitats for marine life. In other locations the tiles have been colonised by seaweeds, oysters, limpets and marine snails within a month of being installed. You can comment on the project until 21st June at yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/fairy-bower-ocean-pool

North Steyne Stormwater Improvements

You can comment on the project until 21st June at yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/north-steyne-stormwater-improvements

Draft Delivery Program 2020-2024, Operational Plan & Budget 2020-2021

Submissions have closed (7th June) but details are available through the Council website.

Manly to Seaforth Floodplain Risk Management Study & Plan

Submissions have closed (14th June) but details are available through the Council website.

Manly Town Hall COVID-19 Testing Station

Thousand of tests were conducted and no-one tested positive. The testing station is now closed and Council is reopening public facilities at Town Hall. Things may not go back to what they were, but many feel that the new processes work well and encourage greater efficiencies.



HPL Law Group is a leading law firm on the Northern Beaches operating under the enthusiastic and passionate guidance of Principal Anthony Mete since 2004. We focus our expertise in the areas of:

Property Law including Leasing, Conveyancing and Council Disputes, Commercial Litigation, Family Law, Wills, Deceased Estates, Criminal Law and Traffic Law.

Our mission is simple; to provide exceptional and competent service. We look forward to continuing to service the local area and to maintain our status as one of the leading Northern Beaches law firms.



www.hpl.com.au

info@hpl.com.au

(02) 9905 9500

CONTROVERSY CORNER

MANLY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE (MEC)

The MEC has operated from a shopfront on Belgrave Street for decades. It is an expensive operation with costs approaching \$100K per year and for some time Council has struggled with the future of this facility. The MEC has been at the forefront of the fight to maintain our environment and for years residents, schools and visitors have used the Centre resources to highlight environment, fauna and flora concerns and increase public awareness while carrying out direct action. Councillors have agreed to prepare a report to be brought back to Council within three months on the potential benefits and costs of Council involvement in driving the activation of under-utilised Sydney Harbour Federation Trust sites at North Head. Council is looking at a refit and use of a vacant building at North Head as an Environmental Sustainability Education Centre. The Trust does not support the request; we do not yet know why. There is also the question of whether this is the best location for an environmental centre that has in the past relied upon passing traffic, pedestrian and motor vehicle, to get a message out?

Artwork/Sculpture/Plaque

A proposed artwork to reflect the community response to COVID-19 has caused a public outcry. Funding of up to \$150,000 will come from the fast tracking of existing arts funds. The work for the Manly to Palm Beach sculpture walk is supported by many Councillors, including Manly Ward Crs Grattan and Bingham. A petition against the artwork is circulating and there is now a proposal to pull

CONTROVERSY CORNER CONTINUED

the entire \$1.7 million funding from the sculpture walk. Please let us know your views.

Manly Hospital Site Redevelopment

The Forum has previously expressed concern over delays to the project. We are looking for the NSW Government to honour its commitment to retaining the site for community health and well being. There is a committee of Government, Council and a few community representatives who meets under the control of Property NSW (State Government) and simply oversee developments as the Manly Hospital Site Project Steering Advisory Committee. Some community and State Government allocated persons had not given the project their full commitment. We need more local experts and committed residents to ensure the project's aims and goals are successfully achieved. Nominations of interested parties for the Advisory Committee were sought and we encouraged five local residents with outstanding skills to put their names forward. Unfortunately not one of the local nominees was selected, and nominees weren't even afforded the courtesy of being advised by State Government before the last meeting. We will continue to fight for the best outcomes and to have our local experts involved in the process for the sake of the preferred outcome. One of the new Advisory Committee members is a regular MCF attendee who will be at our future meetings; the Forum Chairman is also on the Advisory Committee.

A Master Plan should be ready soon and we will circulate it for your information and comment. One excellent

We Are Here To Help You

In these challenging times we know that there are people in Manly who may find it difficult to get to the shops or the chemist due to Covid 19.

We would like to offer our help as a team over the following months to assist those vulnerable residents including seniors, people with a disability and those with compromised immunity or who are required to self isolate.

If you are not able to leave your home, please contact us.

**Jake Rowe - Principal
Sales & Property Management
9977 1111 or 0414 612 546.
Shop 1, 22 Darley Road, Manly 2095**



CONTROVERSY CORNER CONTINUED

aspect of this development is that the youth hospice, heavily pushed for by our Local Member James Griffin, is nearing a committed start. This should secure the site for the future. Updates will be provided on the MCF website.

North Head Sewage Treatment Plant Community Reference Group

We are lucky to have an outstanding Production Manager, Michael Selleck, running the North Head plant. He has been instrumental in providing the community with a greater understanding of the works at North Head and of the extent of work needed to provide even more improvements to the plant.

This community lives closest to the plant and as such we experience more odours, more trucks through our streets, and given our closeness to the plant we also from time to time put up with the occasional overload and emergency releases. These are currently not as frequent as days gone by but are still a problem in the ocean immediately off our cliffs and sometimes through our harbour and estuaries. Unfortunately the interest in this plant moving to secondary treatment (much reduced sewage to our ocean) through a massive expansion of the plant has diminished and the current meeting schedules have been pushed out. To be fair, we haven't shown the interest. There will be no meeting in May/June with the next meeting on 6th August 2020. If you are concerned about our sewage plant performing only primary treatment and want to be more involved, please email Ray Mathieson mathose@bigpond.net.au.

Damaged & Destroyed Trees on Darley Road (Council advice)

Council has been in discussion with Jemina Gas in relation to compensation for the replacement of the trees at 38 Darley Road. Jemina has confirmed that it will provide compensation for the first tree. Since the gas leak, the pine at 36 Darley Road has also died.

A gas main break at 70 Darley Road exploded into flames and killed a brush box as well. Council is seeking compensation from Jemina for these two trees as well, and will program and coordinate the replacement of the trees as soon as it has confirmation from Jemina Gas.

Need Customer Service Help from the Council?

Lodge your issue online or call 1300 434 434.

RESPONSES FROM COUNCILLOR BINGHAM**Bike Racks at Manly Wharf**

The double-decker bike rack installation at Manly Wharf has been completed. Two racks that were located in the central area have been relocated following requests from the community. All double-decker racks are now located in less visually prominent areas, either between the wharf carpark access ramp and building or adjacent to the visually dominant bus shelters. At this stage, there are no further plans to change the layout of the bike racks.

30km/h speed limit Trial in Manly CBD

The trial of a 30km/h speed limit in parts of Manly CBD will be the subject of a briefing to all Councillors tentatively scheduled on the 9th June 2020 where details of the area and timing for the implementation will be provided. This is still being finalised with Transport for NSW.

Timed Pedestrian Lights at the Wharf

Council has made repeated requests to Transport for NSW for consideration of pedestrian countdown timer lights at this intersection. While Transport for NSW (RMS) has not been agreeable to the installation of countdown timer lights, it has allowed for the pedestrian crossing over East Esplanade to receive more green time during peak pedestrian demand periods.

A further request for the installation of a scramble crossing where all pedestrian movements are allowed at one time has now been sent to Transport for NSW for consideration.

HOP SKIP & JUMP BUS TO CONTINUE

With the introduction of new regulations regarding the number of people who can occupy a space, the Hop, Skip and Jump bus is now restricted to 3 people. As residents who regularly use the Hop Skip and Jump Service know, the bus is an essential service to many people in the Manly Ward, particularly the elderly and those who do not use a car. The intention of this service was to cut down on automobile traffic in the Manly area.

We are grateful to Council for providing this essential service and committing funding through 2020/2021. As the restrictions of COVID-19 relax, we look forward to "the Hoppie" getting back to full service.

MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM CONTACT DETAILS

Email all correspondence to secretary@manlycommunityforum.com & mathose@bigpond.net.au.

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting are posted on our website manlycommunityforum.com.

Stay in touch by signing up at manlycommunityforum.com or follow the Manly Community Forum Facebook page.