

MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2020

Everything is changing.

There will be no more free *Manly Daily* newspapers. For the next few months there will be no more Manly Community Forum meetings and this newsletter may be the last one in print.

But the Manly Community Forum team are still here. We're still dealing with community issues and keeping you up to date with local news.

But now it will be mainly ONLINE.

**Please join us by listing your email address at
www.manlycommunityforum.com/contact-us**

Sign up is free.

You will receive the newsletter once a month, urgent news, and nothing else.

Your email is secure, it will not be shared with anyone.

You can unsubscribe at any time.

We plan to run some meetings online and you may have the option to join in.

BRAVE NEW WORLD

This newsletter may be the last printed and delivered newsletter for some months. The bans on public meetings and the need for social distancing requires all organisations to re-think how they communicate and gain understanding of the community needs and concerns. Our newsletter advertisers who cover our printing costs understandably have had serious disruption to their business. The Manly Wharf Hotel has completely closed, but will continue with us when this crisis is over. Nest Renovations have finished their term with Manly Community Forum (MCF) and we wish them well through this difficult period. Rowe and Partners have been seriously impacted, but Jake Rowe has agreed to continue with us through the crisis period and beyond. Thank you Jake and Partners! The Manly Yacht Club, who have provided our meeting place for decades, is facing severe cost increases for full hygienic cleaning and the loss of its reception business that keeps it afloat (no pun intended). We cannot meet for now and the foreseeable

future but wish to offer the Club our support and thanks for the community support that it has always provided. We will be back at the Yacht Club when this is over.

It is extremely important during these difficult times that we maintain a strong link with Council management and continue the excellent dialogue that is providing the Council support we need for Manly.

We would like to increase our email list. This way we can keep you informed of all MCF news and activities. Please let your neighbours know and get them to sign up to our newsletter.

MCF respects your privacy and will not use email addresses for anything other than the distribution of the MCF newsletter and associated news items. Email addresses will not be shared with Council. From May 2020 we may only be communicating via email and group online links.



There will be NO physical Manly Community Forum meetings for the time being.

www.manlycommunityforum.com/contact-us

BRAVE NEW WORLD CONTINUED...

During these extraordinary times, MCF coordinators are working hard to make sure that everyone is informed. Council has closed most of its face-to-face services - libraries, environment centres, art galleries, Hello Manly Visitor Information Centre and many more. But many of the Council's operations are still ongoing, with many staff working from home or observing the social distancing rules if working outdoors. All volunteers and some staff have been stood down until further notice.

The COVID virus has reached Manly and we do have a few people in self-isolation among us. Be vigilant and make sure you, your friends and family don't endanger others with thoughtless behaviours.

We are asking our local community, to be responsible and take the social isolation seriously. While the beaches and parks are open for exercise, please do not go to the beach and congregate in groups or stand too close to each other while you are waiting for your takeaway coffee.

Thank you to those small businesses that have remained open to provide coffee and other food takeaway services. Check out the Manly Chamber of Commerce Facebook page to find out which businesses are open or give James Griffin's office a call. Likewise if you think something is wrong or someone is in danger, please call the police.

Looking after your mental health will be key to getting through the coming months, and being in a position to support others. We know that the Manly community is incredibly caring and compassionate. Reaching out to people with a phone call or a message can be a great way to help prevent social isolation in these times of social distancing. There are also many resources on offer from Beyond Blue and Lifeline.

MCF MEETINGS

For now public meetings are banned. The MCF Committee is investigating remote options and would like to hear your suggestions on ones that can be easily implemented to keep everyone informed and in touch. Please email us with ideas on how we could achieve this going forward. Do we indeed need to meet or are you happy to receive a monthly newsletter, hard copy or via email? Send your suggestions to secretary@manlycommunityforum.com.

Online meetings and Zoom. Many community groups have opted to use Zoom and are happy with the functionalities and call quality on offer. There may be a cost for this function and we will advise more as we trial this option.

MATTERS ADDRESSED WITH NBC

This month we have a number of responses from Council to the issues raised at previous meetings. We are also pleased to advise that our link to the Council Executive Management is stronger than ever and this Forum, run by a Committee of your fellow residents with no political affiliation, is continuing its community advocacy with excellent results.

MANLY PARKING PERMIT SCHEME

Changes to the Manly Parking Permit Scheme are on hold. It's hard to find a place to park in Manly and the Council is addressing this issue by requiring residents to link their car registration to their residential parking permit. Visitor permits will need to be linked to a street address. This is to stop the on-selling of permits online, and to restrict the permits to genuine locals only. There is also a move to greatly increase permit costs, for example, you used to qualify for a residential permit for free, you may now have to pay \$47. Due to COVID-19 disruption, a decision regarding increasing the permit price and other

NBC MATTERS CONTINUED...

changes have been put on hold so residents don't need to do anything. Expired parking permits are still being honoured. MCF strongly supports the move to link permits to a car registration or street address. This, and changes limiting permit numbers for clubs etc, should free up much more curb space for genuine locals. But we oppose the big price increases, and when Council returns to normal, we will be lobbying Councillors to limit the price hike. Residents should not have to pay almost \$50 to park their own car in front of their own house.

PARKING IN MANLY CBD

We wrote to Northern Beaches Council (NBC) asking what planning is underway for an increase in parking in the CBD area now that the carpark plans under the oval have been cancelled. NBC responded:

"There is currently nothing planned for central area parking. However, the CEO's office will speak to staff about any longer term plans to be considered when we are preparing the Manly Place Plan."

EAST & WEST ESPLANADE PARKS

The disappointing behaviour over the weekend of 27 and 28th March, with none of the required distancing/social contact requirements being adhered to, the overindulgence of alcohol, and a large group of underage youths snorting from gas cylinders, has put a stop to the permitted consumption of alcohol in East Esplanade Park. The area is now alcohol free and will be policed as such. West Esplanade park is supposedly alcohol free. The rangers and police are also actively policing the coronavirus restrictions and fines are being issued. NBC CEO had has the temporary toilets removed from the park, given that people are not allowed to congregate in the park for now. The toilets were to replace the toilets removed during the renovation. This issue will once again be addressed when the park functionality returns to normal. Many say that this virus shutdown should be the catalyst for a return to the previous days when alcohol was not permitted in the park.

On a positive note work has commenced on the remediation of public facilities at East Esplanade Reserve. Most of the work will be carried out in the winter months.

FAIRY BOWER

We await a start date on the pool/stormwater remediation however work is underway (probably completed by now) on the steps to the beach to make them safer. Sydney Water is conducting testing to reduce the potential for sewage overflows and Council has advised a review of the bin cleaning process.

LITTLE MANLY MASTER PLAN

The Park Assets area of NBC has advised some detail/timeline of the planned works presented at a previous MCF meeting, as follows:

Substantial funds (up to \$1.4M) have been proposed from a forward budget in year 2021/22. The funds will allow a number of the agreed projects in the Little Manly Master Plan to be completed.

Those projects will include: demolition of the Council owned property at No. 40 Stuart Street for park expansion; removal of the extensive access ramp and completion of a more usable and aesthetically pleasing ramp of one strip, commencing further into the property at No. 40 Stuart Street; relocation of the pedestrian path around the kiosk/café area, not through the café; landscaping improvements along the property lines of the remaining beachfront property, further work on the future use of No. 34 Stuart Street; improved access pathway along Craig Avenue to the ramp and beach areas; rebuild of the boat

NBC MATTERS CONTINUED...

ramp (galvanised steel gabons are deteriorating and creating safety issues). The harbour pool renovation is covered by a separate budget already allocated and the playground is part of the 2021/2 renovations.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

The NSW Local Government Elections which were due to be held in September have been postponed. March 2021 is a consideration, but it will more likely be held in September 2021.

This gives us a lot more time with our current elected Council and especially the Manly Ward Councillors. An extended lead-in time can only mean more emphasis on meeting resident expectation.

So it's got to be good..?

MAJOR TRANSPORT/TRAFFIC INITIATIVES

James Griffin attended a meeting with the Precinct Chairs, Executives and Council and answered questions on the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link, Balgowlah Connection (for the Beaches Link/Tunnel), Seaforth Connection, B-Line buses and Turn-Up-and-Go (Dee Why to Chatswood) and the concerns regarding the apparent semi-privatisation of the Region 8 Bus Service Tender.

All responses are detailed on the MCF website. Please contact James Griffin directly for any further details or any issues on these or other matters.

SHOWER DRAIN ODOUR AT EAST ESPLANADE RESERVE/SYDNEY WATER PUMPING STATION

Shower Drain:

Council stormwater asset engineers have previously investigated the stormwater at East Esplanade as highlighted at the previous MCF meeting. Investigations confirmed that the beach shower drain consists of a small 100 mm diameter pipe which discharges directly to the beach

NBC MATTERS CONTINUED...

within the shower drain and organics from trees and vegetation entering the drain has created a situation whereby stagnant water and the breakdown of the organic material has resulted in odour issues.

Council's Parks and Reserves maintenance crew have been advised of the issue and will undertake more regular cleaning of the drainage line.

Sydney Water Pumping Station:

Council Stormwater Asset Engineers have also noted odour issues on a few occasions on hot, windy, summer days likely to have originated from the Sydney Water sewer pumping station adjacent to the shower.

Council is notified by Sydney Water in the instance that the sewer overflow connected to the stormwater pipe is activated, but there have been no recent notifications of any severe overflow discharges at East Esplanade.

Planned Stormwater Program:

The Council Stormwater Design and Delivery team are currently investigating a number of sites across Manly with the aim of reducing the risk of stormwater flooding.

Recently, a stormwater gross pollutant trap (GPT) was installed along East Esplanade adjacent to Victoria Parade which has been successful in reducing the pollution entering our beaches. Further water quality improvement devices are planned along North and South Steyne later this year.

Council Asset Engineers are also reviewing the cleaning and maintenance of all current GPTs including the East Esplanade system to ensure that it is operating at an optimum level.

POSSIBLE CONTAMINATION CONCERNS - OLD GAS WORKS SITE, LITTLE MANLY POINT PARK

At the February MCF meeting we advised that NBC would provide advice on the risk assessment outcome before the March MCF meeting.

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**



NBC MATTERS CONTINUED...

We assume all signage will be removed.

NBC has responded: "The Restricted Area signage at Little Manly rock platform is still in place as Council is undertaking a human health and aquatic ecology risk assessment. The consultant has concluded all field sampling and Council is anticipating a draft report in mid-March. Preliminary results indicate that there is no risk to human health or aquatic ecology in the park or adjacent harbour waters including Little Manly tidal pool. Once the report is finalised and Council has completed mitigation works the barricades will be removed and site access restored. Council has also completed upgrades to the groundwater containment system at Little Manly Point. The new system performed without incident during the recent storm event in early February that saw a near 20-year high 400 mm of rainfall and subsequent significant groundwater movement through the site."

The following items are pending a response:

- Regular/proper cleaning of public waste/garbage bins. MCF asks that this be discussed at Council and additional cleaning established.
- MCF asks that Council Traffic Engineers reconsider the Eustace Street issue and determine ways to reduce the commercial and taxi flow and the "rat run" aspects of this street.

FROM JAMES GRIFFIN

Dear MCF Residents, I was looking forward to presenting at the most recent Manly Community Forum meeting however COVID-19 made that a challenge. The past few weeks have been some of the busiest I have experienced in my three years as your State MP. From supporting our local businesses and the locals they employ as they attempt to trade (where possible) through these restrictions, to communicating the quickly evolving situation and directions from the Premier, it has been a busy time.

To receive the quickest and most trusted official advice on what you can and cannot do, financial support and all the local information and Health data on COVID-19 I encourage you to visit: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>.

Your State Government continues to lead the response to COVID-19. We are working around the clock to ensure all members of our community are supported through this time. In addition to the \$700 million extra funding for our Health system to double our ICU capacity, we have delivered more than \$8 billion dollars in support to all communities over two stimulus packages. We have created a 24/7 hotline to give you the latest updates on restrictions, cost of living assistance, financial support for businesses or rules around social distancing, the hotline is here to help and is 13 77 88. I have worked with a small voluntary team to develop a local website <https://backyourlocal.com.au/>. The website is a free resource for Manly residents and businesses to communicate and support one another. I'd encourage you to take look and consider how you can "stay safe, stay home and support our local businesses". Given our reliance on tourism, things are tough right now.

I'd encourage you all to remain positive during this time and can assure you that as a member of the NSW Government, I along with the Premier and my colleagues are working as hard as we can to get us all through this. I believe we will emerge a stronger community. As always, if you need help, please don't hesitate to contact me at my office. Stay safe, James Griffin MP.

FROM ZALI STEGGALL'S OFFICE

Wendy Camelotti from Zali Steggall's office (who spoke at the MCF February meeting), can provide advice on financial assistance for non-profit organisations, guidelines for sporting organisations, current grants that may help local families and other open grants. Wendy writes: "This has been a difficult and confusing time for everyone. The situation is evolving so quickly that it's hard to keep up. Please remember, Zali and her team are here to support you. We are constantly updating Zali's website as new information is released and you can also go to the government's website. Contact Wendy Wendy.Camelotti@aph.gov.au."

Zali's team has issued a 4-page COVID-19 update via letter box drop. It contains key information on health advice, economic assistance, contact details for up-to-date information, domestic and family support, mental health and well-being, and suggestions on ways to talk to your children about Coronavirus. Contact Zali's office on (02) 9977 6411 or zali.steggall.mp@aph.gov.au for more information.

NEIGHBOURHOOD HELP

#viralkindness Northern Beaches Sydney Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/3748539621853829> is a community-led volunteer group consisting of 2,500 Northern Beaches local residents who would like to help vulnerable members in our community - the elderly, self-isolating or high-risk (and unable to leave their homes) to access basic essentials like groceries, pharmacy goods, collecting post, offering a lift to a medical appointment or simply making a regular friendly check-in phone call during this COVID-19 pandemic. The #viralkindness message is now also being promoted by NBC.

We encourage and support people to help out in their own street or suburb by setting up a #MyStreetSupport group, but we also encourage anyone in need (or those who know someone who could benefit from the assistance of one of our members) to post a message to the Facebook group so that a connection with a volunteer can be facilitated. To date, several vulnerable members of our beautiful Northern Beaches community have been connected with a wonderful volunteer who is ready and willing to help! #MyStreetSupport groups have been set-up and are manned by volunteers in almost every suburb across the Northern Beaches, including several in and around Manly.

If you NEED some help from a friendly local Manly-based volunteer or you are able to OFFER help, please contact Sam McCourt on smccbills@gmail.com or 0407 663 358. Or join the #MyStreetSupport COVID19 Manly Wentworth Street Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/240765377098699>.

In these very stressful and challenging times, we are *all* in this *together* and we will get through this *together*.

LAST WORD FROM THE EDITOR

We plan to run a *Letters to the Editor* facility through our website, with a selection of the letters reproduced in our monthly newsletter. We will update you on this in the near future. Until then stay safe. Keep talking to each other whether by phone, online, or over the fence, but hang in there. We will see some light in the near future, but we need to maintain social distancing until then. Take care!

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

Online Communications: If you'd like to receive this newsletter and other Manly Community Forum correspondence by email, please email secretary@manlycommunityforum.com, go to our website and/or follow the Manly Community Forum Facebook page.