

MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM

A community-led monthly newsletter for Manly residents

JUNE 2021

We are Meeting in Person Again

After 18 months of ZOOM meetings, we are once again meeting at the Manly Yacht Club next Monday at 6.50pm for 7pm start and 9pm finish! There will be drinks but no food due to restrictions. The standard QR code sign-in will be available along with hand sanitisers and separated seating. There is plenty of room for a good crowd and many issues to discuss with Council staff and elected Councillors. The meeting is on come rain, hail or shine. There is heating at the Yacht Club and a lively Agenda to keep your interest with a screen displaying the projects and initiatives happening in our community.

Celebrating World Ocean Day

Project Seahorse Hotel has landed at Little Manly. It's a collaborative effort to save the White Seahorse, which was declared an endangered species in 2019. The little seahorse, which used to be found along the coast from Southern Queensland to Jervis Bay, is now clinging on in shallow-water bays, including Sydney Harbour, Port Stephens and Port Hacking. Pollution and boat anchors have decimated the seagrass meadow habitat that the seahorses prefer. Being versatile creatures they have made do with swimming pool netting, but it's not enough.

In a research collaboration between Sydney Institute of Marine Science, Sea Life Sydney Aquarium, The University of Technology Sydney, NSW Fisheries Department, and now Taylors wine (who have a seahorse on their logo) and local philanthropists Dorset Sutton and Jenny Lim Sutton, the seahorses have been given a new lease of life. Seahorse homes have been installed on the seabed at Little Manly and Delwood Beach. The homes, or 'SeaBnB hotels' start off as bare metal cages, but after a few months on the seafloor will be festooned with algae and perfect for their new tenants. The baby seahorses, which will be bred at the Sea Life Sydney Aquarium, are booked to arrive in September on Father's Day, to celebrate the fact that for a seahorse, it's the male that gets pregnant and carries the young. About 100 of the little creatures will check in at each location, after being individually tagged so population growth can be assessed. The SeaBnB at Clifton Gardens resulted in wild seahorses coming in to help establish a thriving colony, and that's expected to be the result here as well.

The final stage of the project is to re-establish the natural habitat by re-planting seagrass (*Posidonia australis*) at Little Manly and Delwood Beach, where remnant patches still exist.

AGENDA

- Deputy Mayor Councillor Candy Bingham on the projects planned for the Manly Ward, especially the central Manly, Little Manly & Fairy Bower area.
- Draft Delivery Program for 2021/2025 - Are we getting our fair share?
- The future of Manly Town Hall - Consultation has concluded & the experts are considering the proposal.
- Federation Point & the future of Manly Aquarium - Why is it taking Roads & Maritime Services so long to decide?
- Who gets the Community Engagement News from Council? Is anyone responding to the Open Projects, 'Have Your Say' opportunities? This week there is the opportunity to respond to the draft Community Safety Plan, the draft Social Sustainability Policy, School Zones Upgrades, Shared Paths & Cycleways & a number of other major projects.
- My Place: Manly Place Plan.
- Open Forum/General Business



**NEXT MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM MEETING IS MONDAY 21ST JUNE 7 - 9PM.
MANLY YACHT CLUB, EAST ESPLANADE.**

My Place: Manly Place Plan

Remember Manly 2015 and the oval car park? Well, here we go again. Started in May 2016, Northern Beaches Council (NBC) took 2 years to create the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) Shape 2028. Now as part of the cascading plans the Manly Place Plan hopes to offer a clear vision and guide for future planning in the Manly Strategic Centre. Council documents say the focus will be on the community's connection to place, building on knowledge and priorities outlined in several existing planning studies and strategic documents. A night time economy study for Manly will also be carried out as part of the process.

The Manly Place Plan Project Working Group (PWG) will be established to provide a forum for 15 residents and representatives from various interest groups to discuss and express their views at three meetings over the 6 months of the plan's development. The draft Place Plan will be exhibited by early 2022. The Manly Place Plan is critical to determining the identity of the Manly CBD and immediate area. We have seen the slow removal of the remnants of 'old Manly' with the replacement of the teal blue benches and picnic tables, the flying of the NBC logo flags at the end of the Corso on the beachfront, as well as the disappearance of Manly's iconic Food and Wine and Jazz Festivals.

Renewal and progress are necessary but Manly should be recognisable and identifiable. The Manly Community Forum co-chair will be participating in this PWG and will provide updates as the discussions progress. Let us know via email if you have any points or issues you would like considered in this plan.

Election Season Fever

Election season is coming soon! Local Government Council Elections are held every 3 years in September. COVID-19 gave us a reprieve as it delayed the 2020 Council elections for 12 months, but now with only three Council meetings to go, local political parties, independents and individual candidates are positioning themselves for a campaign that will culminate in the polling booths on the 4th of September 2021. NBC came into being in May 2016 with the first election for the amalgamated Council held in September 2017. There is no 'absentee voting' for Council elections.

The Northern Beaches Local Government Area has five wards: Curl Curl, Frenchs Forest, Manly, Narrabeen, and Pittwater, each with

Election Season Fever Continued...

three elected representatives totalling 15 Councillors from a variety of political parties and some Independents. Each ward has approximately 36,000 voting residents including some non-resident but eligible business voters.

Manly Ward, which is a slightly extended area from the former Manly Council area, has been represented by Councillor Sarah Gratton, who stood on the Your Northern Beaches 'ticket', Councillor Candy Bingham from Good For Manly, and Councillor Pat Daley, on the Liberal ticket. They were elected from 15 candidates who stood in the ward, including candidates from Labor and the Greens. The Greens were only successful in the Curl Curl ward.

The Mayor of the Northern Beaches is not 'directly' elected by the eligible voters, but rather elected by the Councillors at the first Council meeting of the new Council after the elections. The merits or otherwise of a 'directly elected Mayor' were hotly debated at a recent council meeting where some councillors wanted to change this via a referendum at this upcoming election. The motion was not supported, and the status quo remains. We won't be voting for a Mayor.

It is worth reflecting on the job that has been done by our elected Council representatives in steering the newly formed amalgamated NBC over the past 4 and a bit years. Many services, policies and procedures have been 'harmonised', but according to the Council papers and reports the Northern Beaches is in a good financial position.

With *The Manly Daily* newspaper gone it will be interesting to see how the Council election campaign plays out and how the candidates get their messages out to the residents. It is expensive to run a campaign; printing pamphlets and getting volunteers to letterbox drop and hand them out at polling booths requires funds, organisation and commitment. This can be challenging for individuals who don't have a 'party' or lots of friends to provide such support.

The Manly Community Forum will run candidate forums and commentary on the election to inform residents. Please participate and support those in the community who are standing to be your representative.



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Traffic Management & Pedestrian Safety

Residents have welcomed the installation of the new pedestrian crossings along East Esplanade but are still getting used to them being there. It was a dangerous crossing spot for pedestrians before the crossings were installed, but without proper lighting and an increased area to enable visibility for drivers, the Ashburner St crossing entry area from the beachside is still dangerous.

Pedestrians, especially those on skateboards and bicycles, come out on the crossing without warning and cars often travel faster than the 30kph down hill towards the crossing, creating a dangerous situation that may one day be fatal.

Pedestrians must take care and be aware of cars and check before crossing and drivers must slow down and stick to the speed limit.

The Forum is asking Council to consider removing one parking spot adjacent to the Ashburner St crossing and installing warnings to make it safer.

The new pedestrian refuge at the Darley Rd end of Cliff St remains problematic. It has created a narrow entry into Cliff St and trucks routinely drove over the footpath, causing it to crumble.

Council workers have repaired and reinforced the footpath, but the uphill left turn entry point from Darley Rd remains too small, meaning trucks still drive onto the footpath. Cars are also parking so close to the upper side of the refuge that it is now an obstacle course. An urgent review is needed.



Coloured Road Decals

A decal is an image that can be transferred to a surface using heat or water. Decal is a shortened form of decalcomania, from the original French *décalcomanie*, a technique for transferring prints onto pottery, and we now have them on streets in the Corso, Darley Rd and Whistler St.

The Forum wrote to Council as follows:

We have had many queries and responses to the new road markings that have been installed on Darley Rd and the Corso. These have been varied ranging from great enthusiasm to what a total waste of time and money! Can you clarify the purpose of these 'artworks'? Are they intended as pseudo pedestrian crossings?

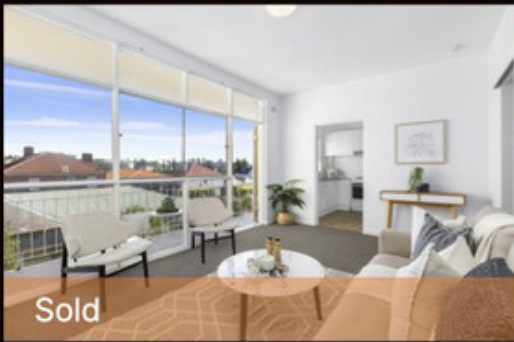
Both drivers and pedestrians seem confused with drivers tooting pedestrians and pedestrians giving the drivers the finger so to speak. How long are they intended to last in ground? Are they temporary or permanent and will they be replaced as they wear off? How were these items funded, via a grant or general Council funds? Does the Council intend to install these in other areas? What area of Council is responsible for this proposal and implementation. Are they seeking feedback?

The community would be grateful if the pedestrian crossing at the junction of Whistler St and the Corso outside the former Council Chambers was repainted as well as the one in Darley Rd at Ashburner St. There is no denying that they now look very shabby against the bright new inlays.



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

. Bouquet to the NSW Government for the Dine and Discover vouchers. Brickbats to the residents who haven't spent them yet. If you still have these vouchers, please get down to your favourite local café or restaurant and support them before the end of July 2021.

. Another Bouquet to the NSW Government for its proposal to rebuild Manly Wharf 3 which aims to improve the experience for public transport customers by delivering accessible, modern, secure and integrated transport infrastructure. But Brickbats for the process taking so long with the Request for Tenders closing in March this year. We look forward to the exhibition and consultation process as the project progresses slowly but surely. We hope public boating pick-up and drop-off points will be included in the final design.

. Brickbat to the Council for the ongoing delay in conducting night time audits of the Manly central entertainment area. In the past these audits have been instrumental in improving lighting, signage and all aspects of community safety in the Manly CBD.

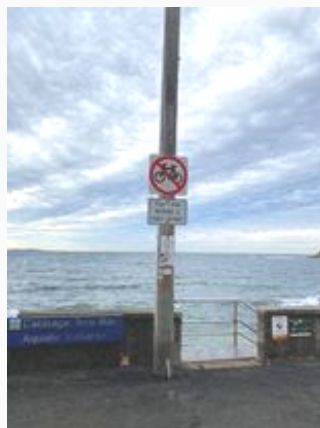
. Bouquet to Sydney Water, in particular the current management of the North Head Wastewater Treatment Plant for its ongoing community consultation.

. Brickbats to other Sydney Water managers for the delay in completing the Vacluse sewage line rebuild, which will hopefully remove the need for the dumping of untreated sewage off the cliffs close to the harbour entrance which then blows into Manly Cove.

Shelly Beach & Cabbage Tree Bay

Council has been promising a signage review for the last 18 months. It seems that this review has consisted largely of the removal of any and all compliance signs along the Marine Pde walkway leaving only a few tatty old signs. The few that remain make it difficult for residents and visitors to know if they can have their dogs on or off leash on or off the beach or rocky platforms; when bike riders are permitted to ride along the walkway (which they are not permitted to do on weekends and public holidays between 9am and 6pm); where to report illegal fishing etc. Council staff claim that they are consolidating all these compliance signs in a single sign with pictograms to describe what is and isn't permitted so as not to 'clutter the area'.

The Aquatic Reserve interpretive signs are starting to look a bit shabby and it's anyone's guess what has happened to the Department of Primary Industries Fisheries compliance signs, not to mention the very old sign at the surf club ramp entrance.



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