



# MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM

A community-led monthly newsletter for Manly residents

MARCH 2021

## Harmonising Rates

You may be aware of the big hike in Council rates heading our way. The forced amalgamation of the three Northern Beaches Councils has resulted in the State Government requirement to “harmonise” rates across the Peninsula.

The process which is supposed to “ensure that properties of the same land value, within the same category or sub category, pay the same rates for the same level of Council service”, may seem like harmony to the ratepayers to our North who get a rates reduction, but we are lumped with a huge increase largely due to our land values being substantially higher than those in the former Warringah and Pittwater areas.

The Council has asked for your comments, but probably has little option under current State Government requirements to ease the financial pain. Instead, we believe the Council could do a bit more for the Manly Ward by way of general maintenance or improved “place management”, as well as speeding up the infrastructure update program which seems to be slowing as the budget control gets tighter. Please don't just accept these changes. Let Council know your concerns through “Your Say” on the Council website and on the customer Service Line 1300 434 434.

The Manly Business Chamber is also displeased with the rating system selected for local businesses, which lumps Manly village in with multi-story shopping centres and commercial rates to match. It has petitioned Council and the relevant State MPs.

There are different issues here in the Manly Ward. Manly is the entry point to the Northern Beaches and a major tourist destination. This does bring some benefits to some commercial businesses but puts a strain on all resources and costs and as such should be viewed in a different light to other areas of the Northern Beaches. Please let Council know what you think.

## AGENDA

- Guest speaker Council Executive on footpath renovations and general safety following the Forum audit in late 2020
- East Esplanade Park (refer to page 3) - future developments
- Infrastructure development throughout the Manly Ward
- Amended changes to The Corso/Darley Rd access
- Harmonising rates -what can we do?
- Major stormwater upgrade at Fairy Bower
- Beaches Link Tunnel

## Other Major News in Brief

Safety issues with the **Little Manly (Craig Ave) boat ramp** require the planned works to have some priority over other Little Manly Masterplan projects. Council is going to tender in July/August with construction to start immediately after the next summer season 2021/22. There has been no decision yet on extending the ramp or re-encapsulating.

The planned **Little Manly Beach seawall rebuild** as stepped bleachers to the sand will also go out to tender in July/August for a possible build in mid-2022. Community engagement and a full review at a Forum meeting are planned for the middle of this year.

NEXT MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM ZOOM MEETING IS MONDAY 15TH MARCH 4:30 - 6PM.  
TO TAKE PART PLEASE EMAIL [KANDYTAGG@GMAIL.COM](mailto:kandytagg@gmail.com)

## Major News Continued...

**East Esplanade Park** final landscaping will be completed in the middle of this year.

**West Esplanade Park/Beach renovations** and possible new beach ramp will be submitted to our Forum in April 2021.

The reclassification of land at **40 Stuart St** has been approved by Council and plans for the demolition and renovation of the park area will be submitted and put out for community consultation in the second half of this year.

**Stormwater works at Fairy Bower** will go to tender this month with work to be completed in April and June. Below is a drawing of the planned reworking of the stormwater drain at Fairy Bower pool.



**Little Manly Point toilet block design** will not be ready for community consultation until the first half of next year.

**Shelly Beach amenities block rebuild** will start in June. Following community feedback, the building design has been reduced in height and scale and a separate family change area added.

An architect will be engaged in the next few months for the **Manly Life Saving Club (LSC)** clubhouse and amenities rebuild. However the \$5M which was expected from the

## Major News continued...

State Government has not materialised; there appears to be a sticking block. It is understood that the State Government believes it has already been more than generous to the Northern Beaches with many grants and handouts which include huge commitments to other Surf Life Saving Clubs. The missing \$5M needed to carry out the proposed \$15M knock-down/rebuild of the Manly building and public facilities may need to be sourced elsewhere.

Concerns with the **BBQ boats** and other hire craft at Little Manly Beach have been addressed with Roads and Maritime Services and better control measures are expected following this summer season. The owner of these craft has sold the business and we are waiting for a new safer approach to management, including the allocation of dedicated moorings, propeller safeguards, supervision at pick-up and drop-off, and boats not being left unattended.

Although it appears that there is now certainty around retaining two of the popular **Manly Freshwater-Class ferries**, there is still a huge push for retention of all four ferries, including a 22,000 signature petition in Parliament awaiting debate. Current information can be found on Deputy Mayor Candy Bingham's *Good for Manly* website.

Works are starting on the Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway Upgrade. This is an important milestone as this is the infrastructure that will connect with the **Beaches Link Tunnel**.

There is considerable concern locally, especially in areas such as Balgowlah, Clontarf and Seaforth, over traffic management, pollution from exhaust stacks, loss of public space and congestion at the exit and entry points.

There is also concern that the infrastructure will lead to a large-scale increase in population density across the Northern Beaches. For more information, join the Facebook group *Beaches Link Tunnel – How it impacts you!*

An advertisement for HPL Law Group. It features a group photo of ten people, mostly men in suits, standing in a row. Below the photo is a light blue banner with the text "ONE OF SYDNEY'S LEADING LAW FIRMS" and "PROVIDING FULL SERVICE TO THE NORTHERN BEACHES". The HPL Law Group logo is in the center, consisting of a teal diamond shape with "HPL" in large letters and "LAW GROUP" below it. To the right of the logo is a list of services: "FAMILY LAW & GENERAL LITIGATION", "CRIMINAL LAW & TRAFFIC LAW", "ESTATE PLANNING", and "CONVEYANCING & LEASING". At the bottom, the contact information is listed: "HPL.COM.AU", "21 / 22 DARLEY ROAD, MANLY", and "(02) 9977 0125".

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## Major News Continued...

Please refer to the Forum website for more information on the **North Manly Bowling Club/District Park site redevelopment**, as well as the opportunity to comment on the suggested approach and the shortlisted options. We are having real difficulty understanding the first suggested option for BMX, skateboarding, snowboarding and surfing facilities.

**Resident Parking Schemes:** Have you noticed the increased availability of parking around the streets of Little Manly and the CBD area? Something is working. Well done Council!

## East Esplanade Park - A Council Dilemma

Drinking will continue on East Esplanade after a Council meeting last month rejected a proposal to ban alcohol from the park. Only one Councillor voted for an alcohol ban despite horror stories from locals, evident antisocial behaviour and occasional criminal acts.

Clearly the Council/Councillors believe that there is a need to maintain the popular drinking spot and enjoy the support of the many locals and numerous visitors who enjoy the park for a cheap booze-up with no management of responsible drinking and little control over antisocial behaviour.

Two speakers addressed the need to rein in the park excesses outlining the dreadful circumstances facing residents of the area. It was heartbreaking to hear of the disgusting behaviour of those who think they are entitled to urinate, vomit and defecate on private property.

We are not opposed to people enjoying themselves in the park, but clearly there are a few abusing this privilege. Shame on those Councillors who refused to listen and understand the impacts of this behaviour on the community and refused to do anything but have more meetings with "stakeholders".

## East Esplanade Park Continued...

Council has an obligation to its residents to ensure that its actions don't offend or endanger the community.

Continuing to allow 12 hours of uninhibited drinking on East Esplanade definitely offends and endangers the local community as this abhorrent behaviour is allowed to continue unabated.

The speakers also outlined the huge cost of the current Council Ranger patrols; the hundreds of thousand of dollars' worth of park renovations that are being destroyed by over-use and carelessness; and that the police found it difficult to accept their responsibility for control measures when the change was brought about by Council.

No doubt reverting to "no alcohol" would take time and close monitoring and some police and ranger action, not just warnings and the occasional patrol.

The decision was made by the Councillors however to leave the ordinances as is and simply form a taskforce to take control with the current policies in place.

The decision smacked a little of something from *Yes Minister*.

It appeared that the suggested Motion was too hard to consider and would not be popular with the voters, even though it is necessary to maintain law and order.

When the good weather appears again and the excesses become the norm, please continue to report your concerns to the police as well as to Council through the customer service line on 1300 434 434.

Please let the Forum know if you do not get an adequate response by emailing the Forum Secretary.

Please provide details including date and time of the complaint, who you spoke to and details of the concern that was raised.

### Property Management Services

We are a boutique independent agency with a purpose to provide exceptional personalised property management service.

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Shop 1, 22 Darley Road, Manly 2095



Annabel Duddy 0458 668 777 | Mitchell Wilson 0499 990 481

## Little Manly Beach Kiosk

The Forum has been critical of Council over its handling of the leasing of this facility and lack of initial resident communication of what the Council expected from the tenderers. More importantly, Council did not consider what the residents expected from this facility. The Ripples management won the tender and we have had more information about what changes can be expected, including a \$500K improvement to the kiosk. To date the availability of the basics for a beach kiosk and the kiosk being open on a regular basis for the preferred time has been impacted by the weather, COVID-19 and possibly cost issues.

Council now requires further biodiversity/environmental and heritage reports and a traffic and parking report (which should have been provided at the time of tender acceptance). This may be proving a difficulty for the owners and we now ask beach goers and users to advise what you want to see at this service venue and whether you are satisfied with the facilities available. The Ripples group is a very successful chain of restaurants and kiosks and we may need to give more consideration to its business needs and have a better understanding of its plans for the site. Please share your thoughts with the Forum.

## The New St Matthews Church Building

The barriers have come down and the new building is officially open. The new Darley Smith Building has an array of meeting rooms and a smart and well-equipped 180-seat auditorium. While the church uses a lot of the meeting rooms for its various groups, they are also available for public hire. And there's a little courtyard and kids playground just off the Corso, which is envisaged as a place for kids to play and people to come and sit.

## Manly goes Inner City

Manly goes full inner city with wall murals. First, we had the fish painted on the Library wall in Market Lane and then last week the rainbow path from the Corso to Rialto Square.

Now we can look forward to the top of the lift well on the Whistler St carpark getting an aboriginal-themed spray of colour. Council has commissioned Otis Hope Cary, a Gumbayngirr/Bundjalung man to paint the large lift well.

We will be able to watch the progress of the project from the Corso opposite the former Council Chambers as well as from Birkley Rd and beyond. Check out Otis's work on his Instagram page @otishopecarey.



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