



DECEMBER 2020

# MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM

A community-led monthly newsletter for Manly residents

## Christmas 2020 ... what a year!

We have been meeting online for 9 months, and finally we have light at the end of the COVID-19 tunnel!

Let's end the year on a positive note! We are meeting at the Manly Yacht Club for our final 2020 Forum meeting. We want all to be able to participate in the shortened meeting but we are limiting the public attendance to 60 with 30 in the hall and 30 around the deck area.

We will be having our usual Christmas BBQ and foods and refreshments, but it will be a little different with conscious efforts to observe social distancing and organised handouts of food and drinks without queuing. Christmas masks are an excellent dress accessory! Bring-your-own glass also helps.

Please advise Kandy ([kandytagg@gmail.com](mailto:kandytagg@gmail.com)) if you can attend (first 60 will be accepted) and whether you are able to help organise on the day.

The meeting will start at 6:30pm and we will break at 8:00pm for the function.

There will be a charge of \$5 (exact money please), with the refreshments partially sponsored by our Forum Treasury.

Special guests include James Griffin who will give a brief update on all things that currently concern this community, as well as a whole lot of good news on improvements to our amenity achieved!

Other guests will include Council Executive Management, Manly Ward Councillors and hopefully our Federal Member Zali Steggall.

### This month we're having a real meeting and a Christmas party to follow.

The Manly Community Forum Christmas parties have always been fun and a great way to catch up with neighbours and meet new friends.

This year it should be even more special. After almost 10 months of quarantine and Zoom meetings, the Forum has decided to hold a face-to-face meeting and plus have Christmas drinks and a barbeque.

There will be a short meeting where James Griffin will attend as a Guest Speaker followed by our usual party fare which will include great food and drinks, sweets and a barbeque.

Covid 19 Guidelines will be followed including contact tracing, social distancing and safe service of food and drinks. We ask that you bring your own glasses

**Manly Community Forum Christmas Party  
Manly Yacht Club - East Esplanade, Manly**

**Monday 21 December 2020**

**6:30 pm Meeting 8:00 pm Party**

**A \$5.00 donation is appreciated.**

For those not wanting to attend in person, we will still have a Zoom connection. Check our website to register for the Zoom meeting or rsvp to [kandytagg@gmail.com](mailto:kandytagg@gmail.com) to attend in person.

***We hope you can join us!***

## Activate Manly/Shared Streets Project

As you may be aware this project has been deferred until the New Year due to concerns with the appropriateness of the proposed changes to traffic, shopper convenience and the potential impact on access to Churches, development sites and waste management. This project along with a project at Bilgola was to be funded from grants made available by the NSW Government. These grant funds may now be at risk, however, the decision to proceed with these two projects was rushed and proper community consideration and consultation is absolutely necessary.

**NEXT MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM MEETING IS MONDAY 21ST DECEMBER FROM 6:30PM.  
TO ATTEND PLEASE EMAIL [KANDYTAGG@GMAIL.COM](mailto:kandytagg@gmail.com)**



## Agenda

- Guest speaker James Griffin
- Great news on Manly Hospital Site re-use
- Youth Hospice building works March 2021
- Are our footpaths a safety hazard?
- Activate Manly/road closures deferred
- East Esplanade amenities block open
- Resident Parking Scheme changes update
- Little Manly boat ramp remedial work
- Little Manly Point & beach upgrade delayed
- Transport improvements to/from Manly
- Freshwater class ferries
- Other business including
  - Northern Beaches Access Tunnel
  - Re-use of Manly Town Hall
  - Developments re Sealife Aquarium
  - Council's decision on Hugo's expansion
  - Traffic impact of Corso/East Esplanade development

## Iconic Freshwater Class Ferries Saga

The Minister for Roads and Transport had decided to discontinue the much-loved Freshwater Class ferries and introduce more Emerald class ferries to the Manly run. There has been a strong outcry over this decision and our Local Member James Griffin did work hard to ensure that these large ferries continue on the Manly run. A recent announcement by the Premier and Minister has backtracked a little and one large ferry will continue to run on the weekend and public holiday periods. The Forum does not believe this to be a sensible outcome as the current operation of four Freshwater class ferries always requires at least one being serviced. It will be a lottery for travellers to get a preferred vessel. We do have an understanding of the "financials" that support the Government decision, but we don't think that the Minister and Premier have factored in the tourism and Sydney-wide benefits of a leisurely run across the harbour in the iconic Manly (Freshwater class) ferry. Nor have we yet received the detailed costs of introducing so many more vessels required to transport the huge volume of travellers in peak times. It doesn't look good for these large but often underutilised ferries, but if they are to continue in peak periods, we should retain at least two. More communication is needed on the detailed costing, the ability of the Emerald class to handle all disability passengers, and a little more information on how often we can expect cancelled services due to weather. In the meantime, keep the State Government aware of how much we enjoy our current fleet. The recent rally organised by James Griffin certainly focussed attention.



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Principal **Anthony Mete** (centre) with Consultant Lawyer **Damon Hall** (formerly of Spooner & Hall) & Lawyer **Nicholas Jarosz**

# Collins Flat Beach & Spring Cove

The Forum has received a number of complaint letters regarding the general condition of the walking track to Collins Flat Beach, vandalism of trees and shrubs (possibly to improve view lines) and a growing list of complaints about non-adherence to the original Catholic Church and Council development application conditions of approval for the Spring Cove Estate. The matters have been directed to the Catholic Church with very little response and are now with the Council for its review, action and feedback. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is also dithering on the control measures for this area which is under its control, not necessarily Council's.

## Manly Hospital Site

The future plans for this entire site are closer to finalisation. Recently the Forum announced that a plan had been put to Council by the NSW Government Property Division covering services planned and an expansion of the zoning to allow community-based services. There was a general acceptance of the plan except for the addition of seniors living. Our concern here was that this could overtake all other aspects of services we believe are required, especially as there has been such a reduction in general aged-care services in the Manly area. In the needs analysis prepared last year, our State Government had accepted that the following was a clear community and stakeholder need and that it would work towards this aim when preparing for the expression of interest to be circulated in 2021: "Valued community connection to the natural and built heritage of the site, including support for adaptive re-use of some buildings and showcasing the views and natural landscape of the site. Resistance to the use of the site for private and long-term residential uses, and strong community views that the site should not be sold to private developers, who will not necessarily deliver strong community benefits."

Please read the detail on the Manly Community Forum website and provide your comments directly to the NSW Government with any necessary follow up to us.

# Are our Footpaths Safe?

This month the Forum led by resident Fiona Aitchison completed a survey of our footpaths in the Little Manly area. It took weeks with 300 examples of trip hazards, badly repaired areas from the public utilities and in many cases temporary repairs that had been temporary for years.

We have now submitted a full study of the area and await the Council response. To be fair to Northern Beaches Council, many of these trip hazard examples have been like this for many years, dating back to before Council amalgamation.

The full report is on the Manly Community Forum website. We are now looking for a resident or a group of residents to complete the survey and submission details for the CBD and Isthmus precinct area and the Fairy Bower precinct area.

Please let the Forum secretary know if you are able to assist.



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Annabel Duddy 0458 668 777 | Mitchell Wilson 0499 990 481



# Bouquets & Brickbats

## Bouquets

- The rebuilt Little Manly harbour pool is proving to be a wonderful community asset. The redesign has allowed children and adults to travel along the whalers from the rocks without a ladder. The railing assisting the very young and the elderly to enter the pool is an excellent addition.
- How good is our new amenities block at East Esplanade Park? It took forever to build, but a very welcomed addition.
- Sensible deferment of the Activate Manly project will allow time to bring the whole community on side.
- Ranger patrols in key areas (East Esplanade, West Esplanade, Shelly Beach and hopefully Little Manly) are now operating from 2pm through the evening.
- After more community consultation we now have an acceptable plan for the changes to Bower St parking.
- Congratulations to Council on the completed Bollard program to provide pedestrian safety near our heavy vehicle traffic areas.
- Our local police force has been boosted by the return of a large percentage of our officers from COVID-19 border duty. We may even have our Area Commander back.
- Beaches Link and Gore Hill Freeway Project Environmental Impact Statement is now on exhibition. Great, but where is the budget for the 2021 period?

## Brickbats

- Paying out to a complainant in the court case over Whistler St will probably put our infrastructure spend back by at least \$7M. This will mean delays in planned projects. 2021 details will be advised by the end of January 2021.
- We don't know the detail yet but Council should not be paying for the cost of rebuild of the Little Manly boat ramp (which is State Government boating infrastructure). The remedial work start date has not been advised.
- The tiered rebuild of the sea wall and seating, pathway, ramp and the Little Manly Point toilet block appears to have slipped out to 2022. There is also no start date for the demolition of No.40 Stuart St and park addition.
- The start date for the stormwater remedial work at Fairy Bower and Sydney Water's acceptance that it must complete remedial work on the exposed sewerage pipes along Marine Pde.
- The wilful destruction of the very handy assistance rail from the beach to the harbour pool at Little Manly. Council is organising a replacement.
- The vandalism and petty crime that requires so much CCTV in the Corso area. The Corso and surrounding CCTV has also proved to be a wonderful bouquet for police.



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