

# MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM

## NEWSLETTER

MAY 2020

### WHO WE ARE

**Manly Community Forum** is a group run by locals for locals. We exist to deal with community issues and keep residents up-to-date with news.

The Forum has good relationships with our local State and Federal MPs and the Northern Beaches Council. We work with them, especially the Council, but when it is necessary to stand up for an issue, we do. The more of us there are, the better we're able to do that. We usually have physical meetings, but due to Coronavirus, everything is online for now.

**Please join us by signing up at**  
**[www.manlycommunityforum.com/contact-us](http://www.manlycommunityforum.com/contact-us)**

It's free to sign up. We won't share your email or send you spam. We are non-partisan and all volunteers.

### MANLY PROJECTS MOSTLY COVID-IMMUNE

Despite Coronavirus ripping a \$21 million hole in the Council's budget, most projects in our area will still go ahead. These include:

**Little Manly Pool** where major restoration work has just started. It includes restoration of the timber 'boardwalk' and beautiful new seahorse-friendly netting.

The desperately-needed new toilet block at **East Esplande Reserve** will have more toilets, accessible facilities, showers and a baby change room. The whole area will get a revamp including landscaping, new sandstone edges on garden beds, new swings, fitness equipment, a picnic table and seating. Work has finally started and it should all be finished by summer.



Funding is also locked in for a revamp of **Little Manly Reserve**, although that work won't start until 2022/23. It will include landscaping, wide steps down to the beach and the demolition of No 40 Stuart Street with the land added to the park, and the zig-zag access ramp straightened out.

Funding is also secure for future work to rebuild the **playground at Little Manly Point**, with Council teaming up with a consultation committee of parents and grandparents, including Forum member Cathy Griffin.



**Next meeting via Zoom: Monday 18 May at 4.30pm**

To take part email **[kandytagg@gmail.com](mailto:kandytagg@gmail.com)**

### MANLY PROJECTS (cont)

The much-needed **new toilet block at Little Manly Point** is not yet funded, and we are concerned it will be delayed. There are no toilets in this park at all, despite it being extremely popular for fishing, picnics and late night parties. This year Clean Up Australia Day volunteers were disgusted when they found human waste in Little Manly Point bushland. Manly Ward councillors must push this project forward, despite the Council's COVID economic hit.

Meanwhile, the **rebuild of Manly Life Saving Club** is in a holding pattern, awaiting a \$5 million contribution from the State Government. Funds from Council and the Federal Government are already locked in.

And in a win for the Forum, the Council has now moved Manly Wharf's new **double decker bike racks** to a more suitable spot near the hotel games area. They had been placed too prominently near the wharf main entrance.



### COUNCIL FREEZES RATES. FOR NOW

Peninsula residents have been given a 6 month reprieve from a Council rates hike. The rates increase, a substantial 2.6%, will now hit early next year, rather than this August.

The measure, which is packaged as a subsidy to all residents, was agreed at a Council meeting last week which passed the 2020/21 Northern Beaches budget.

It comes as Council works to deal with the impact of Coronavirus on the community, while still pushing ahead with new community infrastructure.

The Council itself has also been hit hard, with the cost of the pandemic expected to reach \$21 million. This includes multi-million dollar losses due to closures and service impacts, as well as millions of dollars on support for small business and the community.

The overall budget for 2020/21 is \$433 million, with \$92 million of that to go to community infrastructure.

Projects include tidal pool refurbishments at Clontarf and Forty Baskets, upgrades to Manly Lagoon and Ivanhoe Parks and to the Narrabeen Lagoon boardwalk.

Some projects will be delayed, but most in Manly will go ahead. And while the rates freeze is welcome, there are concerns we'll be up for another rates hike in 2021/22.

You can comment on the 20/21 budget, until June 7, at [yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/projects](https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/projects)



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BE COVID SAFE

We now have a **COVID-19 testing centre** at the Manly Town Hall. It's open seven days a week from 9am to 4pm. Anyone who has a cough, fever, sore throat or shortness of breath can get a free test. It is being provided by NSW Health as Manly is, or was, a community transmission hotspot.

The Forum encourages you to download the COVIDSafe tracking app on your phone - stay safe and help get the economy back on track.



MANLY LODGE HOTEL DA DIFFICULTIES

Manly Lodge Hotel's proposed rebuild has hit a hurdle after the Council knocked back the \$5 million proposal. The Victoria Pde hotel has the right to appeal, but it's good news for residents concerned by the scale of the project. A new five-storey, 49-room hotel with a rooftop open area was proposed. Hakan's cafe is safe for now.

CABBAGE TREE BAY, FLITEBOARDS & DOGS

**Cabbage Tree Bay** has another 5 years with all its aquatic reserve 'no take' protections in place. Despite all the kerfuffle, the State Government has maintained full protection for our precious marine sanctuary.

**Fliteboards** have arrived in Cabbage Tree Bay, and they are not welcome. These motor-powered hydrofoil boards may look cool, but they move fast and are a threat to swimmers, snorkelers and divers. RMS water safety rules are clear: Fliteboards, like all motorised craft, must not be within 60 m of a person in the water. Please help keep the bay safe, and call the **Maritime hotline on 131236** if you see anything wrong. Take a photo and get details please.



**Many dogs are being let off the lead** on Manly rock platforms and some swim in the water as well. It's now clear that the Council does have jurisdiction over the rock platform, as it is "wholly within Northern Beaches Council LGA". So dogs **MUST** be on the lead just like on Marine Parade, and Council rangers are doing regular patrols. But whether dogs can, or should, be banned entirely from the rock platform will have to wait until the finalisation of the Council's Management of Dogs in Public Places policy. So no 'dog' signs on Marine Parade until then.

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  
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Shop 1, 22 Darley Road, Manly 2095**



## KEEPING IN TOUCH

I hope you've enjoyed the May newsletter, which has been published in printed and online form. If you're not already signed up for the e-version, please go to [manlycommunityforum.com/contact-us](http://manlycommunityforum.com/contact-us) We'll send you the news and nothing else.

We hope you like the way we're changing the look of our website and social media, as we improve the way we stay in touch with Forum members and the community.

The website has had some problems, especially around keeping news up to date. We're making progress but are looking for someone, with some IT skills, to help us with this big task. Can you help please?

**Our next meeting is on Zoom: Mon 18 May at 4.30pm.** Numbers are limited so email [Kandytagg@gmail.com](mailto:Kandytagg@gmail.com) please to attend. Please post to our website or email any items you would like to discuss.

**Forum Secretary Kandy Tagg**

## KEEPING THE COMMUNITY SAFE

The high-level Community Safety Committee is back in action from this week, in an online format. **Forum Chair Ray Mathieson** is taking part, along with Council CEO Ray Brownlee and other senior Council staff, Deputy Mayor Candy Bingham and other councillors, senior police, and representatives from RMS, Drug and Alcohol, State Transport, Liquor Accord, Community Services and other community representatives.

**Please contact Ray with your Manly-based safety concerns on [mathose@bigpond.net.au](mailto:mathose@bigpond.net.au)**

## ZOOMING in with ZALI

**Federal MP Zali Steggall** is using new methods to answer residents' questions about the lockdown and COVID-19. Using Zoom and Facebook Live, she's putting the questions directly to experts and linking the interviews to her site. Links to **Federal Grants** including several manufacturing grants, a Resilience Fund for the Arts, and the Entrepreneurs' Program are there too.

Go to [zalisteggall.com.au](http://zalisteggall.com.au)

## MANLY WHARF. NO PARKING. NO TOILETS

From last week, **Manly Wharf car park** is no longer free for ALDI customers, although the supermarket remains open. There is a small sign near the check-outs, but most customers don't find out until they take their parking vouchers to be franked.

As well, the male and female **public toilets** at the wharf have been 'temporarily' closed, with only the disabled/child care toilet left open. There are no warning signs upstairs, and no directions to alternative facilities.

The Forum has been unhappy for years with the wharf toilets - both their lack of accessibility and state of cleanliness. But Manly Wharf is controlled by the RMS - not Northern Beaches Council, and is leased to a private entity. This has turned out to be a terrible arrangement for locals, as even with the support of local State MP James Griffin, it's a struggle to get anything done.

We have alerted James to the latest problem. If you're not happy with the wharf toilets, please contact him via his website: [jamesgriffinmp.com](http://jamesgriffinmp.com)

## LIFELINE MANLY IS BACK



The shop is open every day but only from **10am to 2pm** for now. There's lots of cosy winter gear in store and donations are welcome, but only quality items please as the full sorting, stacking team is not yet back.

At Sydney Rd near Short St.

## BACK YOUR LOCAL

**Manly State MP James Griffin** has led the creation of a great new site to Back Your Local business. It's a hub for residents to find out which businesses are open, what hours, and what services - including delivery - they are offering. Categories include: Childcare, Health, Food & Drink, and many more. Please support our local business people if you can. [hub.backyourlocal.com.au](http://hub.backyourlocal.com.au)

## MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM CONTACT DETAILS

Email all correspondence to [secretary@manlycommunityforum.com](mailto:secretary@manlycommunityforum.com) & [mathose@bigpond.net.au](mailto:mathose@bigpond.net.au)

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting are posted on our website [manlycommunityforum.com](http://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](mailto:secretary@manlycommunityforum.com) or go to [manlycommunityforum.com/contact-us](http://manlycommunityforum.com/contact-us)