

MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM

A community-led monthly newsletter for Manly residents

June 2023

Taste of Manly 2023

Some loved it, some thought it wasn't that great with lots of complaints about the centre of the Corso being fenced and the security at the limited number of entry points. It was unclear that entry was free, with the queues to purchase the glassware to get a glass of wine inside the fenced area being confused with general entry. Despite this the weather, food and music got the thumbs up. council will complete a review of the event but this is unlikely to be made public. If you have any comments send them direct to Council.

Local Government Tourism Conference 2023

Hot on the tail of the Taste of Manly, Manly welcomed delegates from across NSW to the annual NSW Local Government Tourism Conference 2023. Held at the Manly Pacific these tourism experts had the perfect weather to experience the best Manly has to offer, kayaking on the Harbour to Q Station, fish and chips and an icecream on the famous Manly beachfront followed by a walk along Marine Parade to Shelly. some even took a dip in perfect conditions in Cabbage Tree Bay to admire the abundant marine life in the Aquatic Reserve. Other site visits included a trip to Palm Beach and the Barrenjoey Lighthouse.

The Council SWAT team did themselves proud in the lead up to the conference with some quick repairs and clean-ups around the area. Sadly, the pride shown in the Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve, South Steyne or Manly to Shelly, is not reflected on the ground with some very tired old infrastructure around the place. Starting at the Corso end of the beachfront, the new flags look smart but the old memorial plaques celebrating shark meshers and others on small, chipped concrete plinths in the 'garden beds' at the bottom of some of the pine trees leave a bit to be desired. The mess in the vicinity of the single shower pole near the Manly Life Saving club, is also a bit lacking in amenity given the huge crowds that assemble there every morning for a swim. Although, to their credit Council has removed some of the excess sand, and fixed up some of the paving stones, but the bins remain filthy, and the roots of the pine tree continue to push up the paving stones and memorial plinth. Further along the walkway there are missing interpretation signs, broken wiring along the ageing fence, sections of potholed and uneven path, fading line markings, crappy landscaping around Shelly beach and poorly maintained stormwater pipes flowing directly into the Cabbage Tree Bay.

Conference participants discussed, and then agreed, that Councils don't have the funds to maintain infrastructure and that NSW local Councils need to do more to ensure they don't miss out on the economic benefits of tourism. Introducing a statewide tourism levy is one way to do that.

AGENDA

Manly Yacht Club 7pm 19 June 2023

- Darley Rd update
- Council updates
- Sydney Water Update

Participants at the Conference heard that Councils need to prepare for an upswing in tourism and should ensure they do everything to leverage the benefits. Since tourists don't directly provide revenue to Councils there was some discussion about a tourist levy, such as bed tax.

The idea isn't new. Councils including Blue Mountains and Collingwood in Victoria are exploring ways to leverage the tourist dollar via a municipal levy.

In Queensland the Local Government Association is advocating for a Visitor Levy Advisory Group for councils to work with the QLD State Government to change their Local Government Act so Council could implement a visitor levy as an 'opt-in' model.

Northern Beaches Councillor Candy Bingham backed the idea of a levy saying that, like most regions, we provide an awful lot for tourists, adding that we have a lot of day visitors – if we're lucky they buy an ice cream. They bring their own lunch, they use all our facilities and they leave their rubbish when they go, and we're expected to provide enormous infrastructure.



OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON MONDAY 19 JUN AT 7PM AT MANLY YACHT CLUB

Hop Skip Jump bus saved

Thanks to the Manly Ward Councillors for their advocacy and the other Councillors for making the common sense decision to reject the Notice of Motion by a Frenchs Forest Ward Councillor to cancel the Hop Skip Jump Bus. After 20 years of solid service to the Manly community the HSJ is set to remain and indeed be improved with new buses and opportunities for more people to avail themselves of this service.

During the one hour debate, three hours into the Council meeting when the debate on the future of the HSJ commenced, Councillors were reminded that Manly ratepayers contribute substantially more to the revenue of the Northern Beaches Council than the other wards and that it was pretty poor form for the Frenchs Forest Councillor to call for the service to be cancelled in order to save ratepayers money, but then demand that the money be spent on footpaths and roads.

Not everyone uses all council services any or all of the time, but it is important that they are funded and available for those who do. A ride on the Hop skip jump bus costs ratepayers an average of about \$4.50 per passenger while a round of golf at the Avalon Golf course is subsidised to the tune of \$20 per round. Not to mention the pools, theatre, and all the other community services and resources across the region that are subsidised by Council. It is challenging to ensure fairness in the distribution of council resources and services in this diverse local government area but most of the current Councillors do an excellent job advocating for and balancing all the needs and wants of their particular communities.

Hopefully we will not see this type of Notice of Motion again where one Councillor wants to cancel a service for no other reason than it not being provided elsewhere. Manly Ward ratepayers would be within their rights to demand more and better services in accordance with their financial contribution.



Rates paid per Ward

Ward	2021/22	2020/21	% Change
Curl Curl	39,921,579.14	41,723,612.04	(4.32)%
Frenchs Forest	26,259,753.36	27,439,549.46	(4.30)%
Manly	44,365,560.54	37,607,292.01	17.97%
Narrabeen	29,673,745.68	30,013,233.52	(1.13)%
Pittwater	37,047,467.33	36,584,119.09	1.27%

Total 177,268,106.05 173,367,806.12 2.25%

Source: Northern Beaches Council Meeting Agenda 23 May 2023

Also a free bus Manly to Q Station North Head

Speaking of free local buses, it's now easier than ever to get from Manly to Q Station and back!

The Q station offers a free shuttle service from Q Station to Manly, and from Manly to Q Station between 9am and 9pm. Whether you're headed here for a tour, dinner, a casual stroll or to stay overnight, this service is available to you.

Where to catch the bus.

Q Station – meet at the bus pick up spot, in the bus turning circle area out the front of reception

There will be a waiting area and a sign to indicate collection point.

Manly – hop on at the pick-up/drop off zone, near the Town Hall, adjacent to the taxi stand. Same spot for the HSJ bus.

MANLY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
8.30	8.30	8.30	8.30	8.30	8.30	8.30
10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30
11.30	16.30	16.30	16.30	16.30	11.30	11.30
15.30	18.30	18.30	18.30	18.30	16.30	16.30
18.30	20.30	20.30	20.30	20.30	18.30	18.30
18.30					20.30	20.30
20.30					21.30	21.30

Q STATION

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
8.20	8.20	8.20	8.20	8.20	8.20	8.20
10.20	10.20	10.20	10.20	10.20	10.20	10.20
11.20	16.20	16.20	16.20	16.20	16.20	11.20
15.20	18.20	18.20	18.20	18.20	18.20	16.20
18.20	20.20	20.20	20.20	20.20	20.20	18.20
18.20					21.20	20.20
20.20						21.20



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▶ LEVEL 3, SUITE 21, 22 DARLEY ROAD, MANLY ◆

The Manly Theatre Group

After a successful Festival of Short Plays last November, Manly Theatre Group is presenting a new play by local writer Philip Clay. TIME is an entertaining and heartwarming play that explores the conflict, secrets, and long-held resentments within a family coming together to celebrate a 75th birthday. With touching and relatable moments, as well as a few good laughs and witty dialogue, TIME delves into the challenges of dealing with dementia and the unexpected revelations that arise.

It will be on July 27 at 7.30pm, July 29 at 4pm (CANTOO fundraiser) and 8pm at the Darley Smith Theatre in the St Matts development at 1 Darley Road.

Tickets available now through the Manly Theatre Group website: manlytheatregroup.com/the_play_time

MTG is sponsored by HPL Lawyers

Together Yes, Vote Yes

Australia's now 122-year-old constitution still doesn't recognise our first Australians; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It's time it did. Voting "Yes" ensures that they are finally recognised in our constitution in a simple and meaningful way: through a Voice to Parliament that will ensure they are heard on the issues that affect their communities.

Together, Yes invites people from all walks of life to gather in small group discussions and engage in an honest reckoning of the harm and injustice of our colonial past; Australia's history of constitutional indifference; and how a Voice to parliament can make a difference.

Together, Yes is a kitchen conversations movement in support of a YES vote in the 2023 referendum on a First Nations Voice to parliament. It's a powerful way you can participate in the upcoming referendum to enshrine an Indigenous Voice in our constitution.

To participate, contact secretary@manlycommunityforum.com



Sign Audit - Queensie to Manly

Council is currently conducting an audit of all the signage along the beachfront from Queensie to Shelly. Hopefully this will result in some improvements and consistency in the signage.



When will the Northern Beaches Council be in a position to afford to improve the amenity in this area with some new bins, additional showers and some new paving around this and other Norfolk Pine trees?



THE AGENCY



4 Oyama Avenue, Manly



Grand harbourside trophy home with wondrous harbour views

Auction 1st July at 1:15pm



38 West Street, Balgowlah



Beautiful character home spread across two blocks of land

Auction 24th June at 10:30am

We have just listed these two incredible properties.

This stately c1920's character home in Manly has been faithfully restored and cleverly reimagined to provide a luxurious statement residence of timeless appeal.

Or seize a rare and prized opportunity to renovate a near original residence in Balgowlah with enchanting harbour views as a backdrop.

Jake has sold over 500 properties in the Manly area over the past 20 years. If you are looking for an agent with an exceptional track record, along with honesty and integrity, look no further than Jake Rowe.



Jake Rowe
jakerowe@theagency.com.au
0414 612 546

Experience sells

Darley Rd

Community members attended the Sydney Water Community Reference Group meeting. One of the regular agenda items is Darley Rd traffic. To their credit Sydney Water are now briefing their staff and contractors, both regular contractors and those involved in the current project, daily on the need to maintain speed limits and drive safely up and down Darley Rd. However, it was noted by the participants of this CRG that there are other stakeholders operating on North Head who may not be as proactive in ensuring staff and contractors keep to the speed limit, or even drive safely up and down Darley Rd.

Council or someone has removed the conflicting speed limit and other signage just east of Ashburner St,

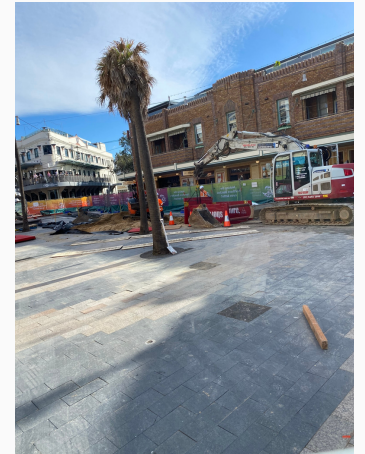
The current works occurring on Darley Rd by a contractor apparently updating the local electrical cabling, and the mess that this is making of the road surface along with the fluro wearing traffic controllers is likely to be a more effective moderator of speeding vehicles and other bad driving behaviour.

The pedestrian crossing markings have now worn off and the painted lines on the road are now illegible as well as being covered with loose asphalt, making the surface extremely dangerous.

The Manly Community Forum has written to the Council and the State Member to ask what the plan is for the upkeep of Darley Rd to a safe standard for all users, pedestrians, cyclists, trucks and cars. We have requested this item be placed on the next Agenda for the Northern Beaches Traffic Committee as there needs to be more than one stakeholder involved in resolving the situation after the current works are concluded and someone else comes along to dig it up again.

Brickbats & Bouquets

- **Bouquet** to the Council for getting back to work on the Corso to fix the damaged stormwater pipes under the paving and restoring the paving itself.
- **Brickbat** to Sydney Water for leaving the water sprouting out of the road on Marshall St to get bigger and bigger. The long weekend is as good a time as any to fix it.
- **Bouquet** to Phil for picking up the litter around Little Manly on his regular morning and afternoon walks.
- **Brickbat** to the Council for demanding more personal information than is required to open a bank account or get a passport to obtain a Manly Resident Parking Permit then failing to ensure compliance on the streets.
- **Brickbat** to Council contractors for their continued weekly use of noisy petrol leaf blowers which disturb the peace and quiet as well as the atmosphere of the area way too early in the morning. This method of keeping the leaves out of the stormwater pipes and thus the harbour does not make up for all the dust, petrol fumes and noise. Please use a broom.



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rippleslittlemanly.com.au

On the beach, Stuart Street Manly

@rippleslittlemanly



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