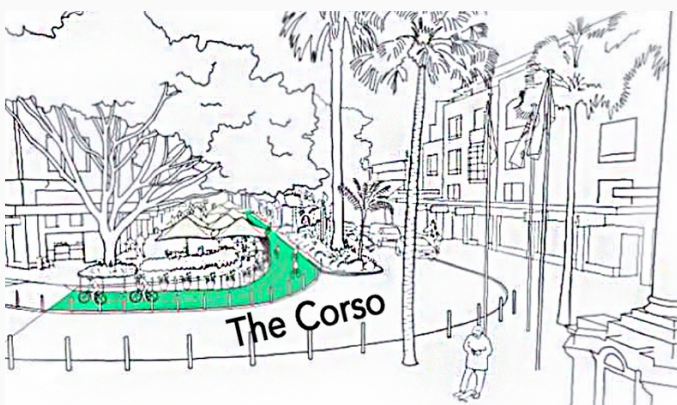


OCTOBER 2020

MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM

A community-led monthly newsletter for Manly residents.

Activate Manly - Major Traffic Changes



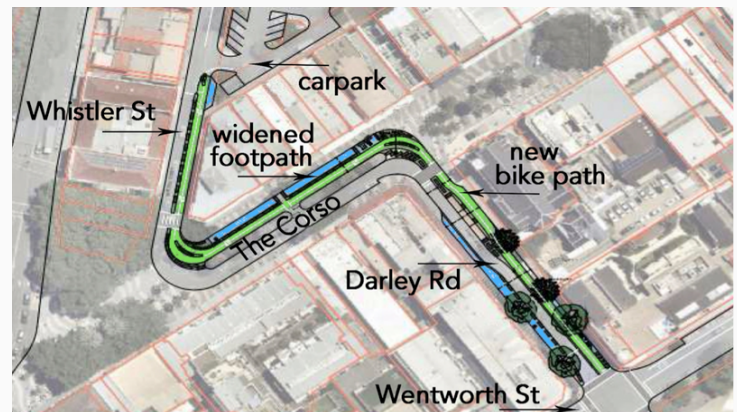
Cyclists and pedestrians are the winners from proposed road changes in the CBD. But there has been no genuine community consultation, and motorists, especially locals, will lose out. Due to a part road closure on The Corso and Darley Rd, there will be one less way to head home. Half the short-stay parking on The Corso and Darley Rd will go, and turning from Whistler St carpark back into The Corso and Darley Rd will no longer be possible.

The biggest change is a plan to convert a section of both The Corso and Darley Rd to one-way traffic heading north. The road will stay open to traffic heading away from the Eastern Hill, but close to traffic in the opposite direction. One side of the roadway will be replaced with a dedicated cycle path (image above) and the parking will be replaced with 'parklets' so cafes can spread out. The one-way road closure will run from the Whistler St car park to the intersection with Darley Rd and Wentworth St.

There will be a shared zone in Whistler St for one block north of the car park with a speed of 10kph. The cycle lane will resume along a short block of Sydney Rd and then Belgrave St as far as Raglan St, with both roads narrowed but no parking lost.

Three routes will still be open to leave the Eastern Hill, but only two for coming home - North/South Steyne and East Esp. Will that be enough?

Traffic analysis (done pre-COVID) showed that on the busiest day (Saturday), 3680 vehicles entered from Sydney Rd and travelled east along The Corso and Darley Rd. It is assumed that all this traffic would end up at the Wharf intersection, turning left from Belgrave St into East Esplanade. The intersection was assessed as being able to cope, meaning there will be no change to traffic light phasing and no other traffic work to make the remaining two routes to the Eastern Hill easier to navigate. The 'Activate Manly' plan is a 12-month trial to improve access to the CBD by bike and on foot, and help businesses recover from the COVID-19 shutdown. The plan had been ticked off by the Traffic Committee, and will now be put on the Council's Your Say page for comment. But the Council has already received a State Government grant, which will be lost if these changes, or similar, don't go ahead. So only tweaks to the plan are likely.



Another problem is the corporate speak that has labelled this a 'tactical urbanism project' with incomprehensible aims, such as 'enhance placemaking'. More at www.manlycommunityforum.com.

East Esplanade - There will be a new pedestrian crossing over East Esp near Ashburner St. This is a busy area for people crossing to and from Manly Cove, East Esp Reserve and the ferry. And it's a dangerous intersection with a blind corner and traffic coming down fast from the Eastern Hill. The crossing will be raised, making it more visible to motorists as well as acting as a traffic-calming speed

NEXT MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM ZOOM MEETING IS MONDAY 19TH OCTOBER 4:30 - 6PM.
TO TAKE PART EMAIL [KANDYTAGG@GMAIL.COM](mailto:kandytagg@gmail.com)

Major Traffic Changes Continued...

bump as cars enter Manly's new 30kph safe speed zone. Another East Esp change is that the existing crossing near the intersection with Victoria Pde will be raised. This is in response to community concerns that pedestrians on the crossing are hard to see and it's an accident waiting to happen. The new raised crossing will act as a second speed bump on East Esp. Although 30kph signs have been in place for some months, council traffic data shows cars are travelling at an average of 39kph along East Esp. While some people oppose the lower speed limit, East Esp is a short street, there are always pedestrians about and usually queues at the Wharf traffic lights anyway. A pedestrian refuge will also be built on Cliff St near the corner with Darley Rd, as people feel exposed on the wide crossing as cars speed up Darley Rd and whip around the corner into Cliff St. The downside is that four street park places will be lost. Please comment on the Have Your Say page on the Council website or call 1300 434 434, and advise the Forum.

Action at the Aquarium and Wharf

Manly State MP James Griffin has just announced \$9M in funding to 'strip back' the infrastructure on the old Aquarium building to allow a new tenant to lease and transform the site. A formal Expression of Interest process will be conducted by the Government and Northern Beaches Council. It's great to finally have some action on the site which has been closed since January 2018.

James also announced \$25M in State funds to replace the old timber wharf next to Manly Wharf Hotel. The new wharf will transform access to ferries for people with prams or wheelchairs by getting rid of the existing steep stairway. Environmental impacts on precious assets like the underwater sea grass and the Little Penguin colony will be closely monitored for both projects.



The COVID-19 Summer Action Plan

The Council has put together an extensive plan to keep our beaches, parks and public areas open and safe during COVID-19. There will be extra flagged areas on beaches; increased cleansing of public areas; and a system of monitoring crowd numbers with an escalating response, including closing the area if it becomes too full. Aerial drones, lifeguards, council rangers, council senior staff and police will all be involved in monitoring or dispersing crowds. The Council is also considering volunteer COVID-19 marshals to help monitor busy areas. Beaches and parks have all been assessed for their safe crowd capacity, with details on the Council's website. In our area, Little Manly beach can have 300 people at high tide and 700 at low tide (bit of a stretch), and East Esplanade Park can hold 800 COVID-safely. West Esplanade can have 1100 people, Shelly Beach 500 and at low tide 1500 (another stretch), and Manly Beach 2500 and at low tide 4000. Little Manly Point Park suggests only 250 people (seems very low).

Cr Pat Daley's motion for a total alcohol ban at East Esp Reserve did not pass when it went to Council last month.

So despite our concerns with the lack of social distancing, antisocial behaviour, and an apparent shortage of rangers and police, drinking until 8pm is on again at The Office.

Fairy Bower Stormwater Rectification Project

This project is a Council responsibility and has now moved to a completed plan. The work includes a complete rebuild of the stormwater system beside the Fairy Bower pool into Cabbage Tree Bay. But when will the work commence?

Council has responded as follows:

'Works are currently out to tender with expectation to appoint a Contractor by late November with Contracts to be signed by January 2021. Works to commence by early April 2021, post summer busy period.'

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North Head Hits the Jackpot

North Head combines bushland, military heritage and knock-your-socks-off views. It's a Sydney icon and it's terrific to see it receiving much-needed grants from both the Federal and State Governments, plus hosting an outdoor sculpture display.

Over \$40M in Federal funds is going to the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust - the body responsible for restoring and maintaining heritage sites around the harbour. North Head's share will go towards the WWII gun emplacements, observation posts and tunnels at North Fort; and to the exterior of Building 1 and Other Ranks Mess (next to the former parade ground), with a view to leasing these buildings out.



At the same time the State Government is providing \$4M for improvements to North Head car parks, pedestrian access to the headland, and to Fairfax walk and lookout. Details will go on public exhibition soon.

Q Station is hosting a new sculpture event - Les Sculptures Refusées. It's a free open-air exhibition of the works that missed out on selection for Sculptures by the Sea. It will run from 15 October to 19 November, and be centred at Q Station Pier and Quarantine Beach.

Much more at www.manlycommunityforum.com

Fairy Bower Sewage Line

This issue has been on the outstanding action list for many months. Sydney Water is slow to react to the concerns, although there was some indication that they were planning a project to rectify the real concern that their main sewage pipe would continue to deteriorate and break open into Cabbage Tree Bay.

Council and Sydney Water have now responded as follows:

'Senior staff met with Sydney Water in August to discuss future works and plans. Sydney Water has provided the following update.

"Investigations have found the trunk sewer main that resides below the promenade and behind the seawall is in good condition and is protected from the sea by the seawall. Similarly the rising main back to Manly from SP0365 at Shelly Beach is in good condition and protected by the seawall.

The only sewer in the area not protected by the seawall is the section of rising main that runs outside the seawall in the vicinity of Bower Lane.

This section of rising main is protected by concrete encasement and to reduce its susceptibility to undermining by wave action an 85m section has been underpinned with concrete down to rock. The work was conducted in mid-2019.

Both the trunk sewer main and rising main have been recently assessed for condition and there is no immediate need for renewal/rehabilitation works."

Council staff will continue to liaise with Sydney Water on the long term management of Marine Parade.

Despite our concerns there appears not to be a problem.

We hope this is the case.

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
Sales & Property Management
9977 1111 or 0414 612 546.
Shop 1, 22 Darley Road, Manly 2095



East Esplanade Park Amenities Block

We have raised concerns with Council over slow progress on the new toilet block. The work was slated to finish in September, then October and now November, although the contractors themselves have said that the block may not be complete until December or January. Council has now installed temporary toilets which are necessary but a big disappointment for residents. It has also created problems for Skiff Club sailors, who have a commitment from Council to provide an area to rig their vessels during the race season. Races have started and will run through summer.

The response from Council is as follows:

'The building contract term expires end of November and Council has been assured that all works would be completed by then. The only remaining works would be landscaping and retaining walls, which will be worked on after the summer period. Council has conducted meetings with the Skiff Club Executive and areas have been allocated for the rigging.'

Summer COVID Action Plan Call for Volunteers

Do you want to make a difference and help keep our community safe? We are asking for Expressions of Interest from the community who would like to work alongside our rangers and lifeguards to provide friendly reminders to the community about staying COVID safe during summer. While no experience is necessary we are looking for people over 18 who love to work with people and have a friendly disposition. Times, locations and days are flexible and training will be provided. Complete the Expression of Interest form in the online COVID-19 section of the Council website, or contact Council on 1300 434 434.

Manly Hospital Site Future Plans

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, NSW Health, the Northern Sydney Local Health District and community stakeholders are working together to develop a concept master plan to inform the future use of the former Manly Hospital site. The concept master plan focuses on delivering health and wellbeing-related uses, a mix of open and community spaces, neighbourhood-scale shops, food and drink offerings, and developing an adaptive re-use strategy for heritage buildings on the site. Local Member James Griffin has provided solid commitment to a suitable redevelopment of the hospital site as well as leading the push for a fully-fitted Youth Hospice, which is now funded. Any concerns we had with the slower pace of developments has been eased through NSW State Government Property Division commitments, and James Griffin recently advised: 'I am happy to report it is full steam ahead with the project. The planning proposal will be lodged with the Council likely next week. At which point it will be in the hands of Northern Beaches Council and put on public exhibition. This shouldn't generate any delays or hold up. In parallel to the lodgement, the Property NSW team will work on the market sounding. This is well and truly beyond the point of no return so to speak. As in, this project is happening... With respect to the AYAH (Youth Hospice), the plans have been through one final round of feedback from the "User Group" and the Government will make an announcement on the funding and construction by Christmas.' James also mentioned that he would like to present to the Forum when we next get together in person. The Public Health Orders are being revised; perhaps he could be the first 'in person speaker'?

Editor's Comment - We are looking to have a December meeting at the Manly Yacht Club as long as COVID management continues to be successful.

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