

MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM

A community led monthly newsletter for Manly residents

July 2025

Manly Library opening hours not working for you? Try this....

After the success of the 24/7 Library operation at Frenchs Forest, the Manly Library 24/7 will now commence a trial from June to November 2025. Manly Library has been upgraded with safety and security systems to facilitate community to access the library outside standard working hours.

Hundreds of library patrons, all over 16 years of age, have already signed up, completed their induction interview and agreed to the terms and conditions for the service. All you need is your phone and then you will be armed with an access code confirmed by email and the doors will open for Library patrons all hours, except Friday and Saturday nights, for all services, browsing and borrowing books, picking up your pre ordered loan, free wifi, computer access, study spaces as well as printing and scanning and relaxing reading areas with comfy lounges. No hot cooked meals or food can be taken in but you can have a coffee or tea and a packet of chips while you read or study. This is a unique service offered by the Northern Beaches Council and now other Council libraries will be watching closely and likely follow this successful innovation.

JULY AGENDA

- Manly Special Entertainment Precinct update
- Manly Life Saving Club DA update
- 2025 priorities Council updates

Followed by

CHRISTMAS IN JULY PARTY

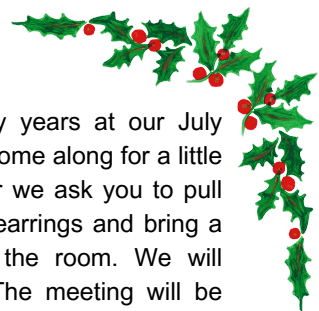
Refreshments served

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Christmas in July
Please join us
All friends of
the Manly Community Forum
and residents of
East Esplanade, Fairy Bower, South
Steyne and the Corso are welcome.



As has been the tradition for many years at our July meeting we invite the community to come along for a little Christmas mid year cheer. This year we ask you to pull out your Santa hats and Christmas earrings and bring a few table decorations to liven up the room. We will provide some nibbles and drinks. The meeting will be short and hopefully a conversation starter at the tables.



OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON MONDAY 21 JUL 25 AT 7PM AT THE MANLY YACHT CLUB



Bush Turkey nest building is on now

Between November 2017 and September 2020 ninety-seven bush Turkeys were tagged on Sydney's Northern Beaches and North Shore. This post Graduate project was a Sydney University collaboration with Taronga Conservation Society and the Sydney's Royal Botanic Garden.

These six month old bush turkeys were caught using foot-noosing, tagged, and released included 49 males and 48 females. Each bird was assigned a number, had blood taken for DNA sampling, its wingspan, weight, head and beak length measured, and their sex recorded. The Research scientists produced an app that allows people to record the locations and behaviours of these native birds. The data generated furthered their knowledge of these species.

These wing tags, individually identifying each bush turkey have been used to track their movements across Sydney as people uploaded their sightings onto the Bush Turkey app. At Little Manly #95 and #94 haven't moved far but have survived to rule the roost in the park and the beach. Over at Shelly #91 has been hanging out on Marine Parade breeding up a storm, so much so that the Boat House is now concerned about their precocious behaviour in the cafe joining the patrons at the tables.

In addition to the bush Turkey app there was also a Wingtags app for tagged Cockatoos and Ibises but in 2021 both apps were merged into the 'Big City Birds' app and website. The information and photos uploaded continues to assist the researchers in understanding how the birds are spreading, their social interactions, and their health in different areas.

The bush turkey is one of about 22 species of megapode, which means 'big feet'. These birds incubate their eggs by laying them in warm mounds of decaying vegetation, rather than sitting on them. Megapodes are only found in the Indo-Pacific region, with three species in Australia – the malleefowl, orange-footed scrubfowl and the bush turkey. Unique among all birds, megapode parents play no part in the rearing of their young.

The male bush turkey, with an almost obsessive purposefulness, constructs a mound for the females to lay their eggs. These mounds can take on gargantuan proportions as sand, soil, leaf-litter, sticks and twigs are raked into a carefully shaped compost heap with the aid of those big feet. All the scrapping and racking exposes insects and worms in the soil, but lately the bush turkeys have become frequent quests in cafes, playgrounds and picnic areas where food scraps can be easier and more plentiful to obtain than the insects and worms in the soil. Bush turkeys also love the pet food leftovers at the back door.



A typical bush turkey mound can measure up to 4m in diameter and stand 1.5m high. One of the biggest in Manly is in Kangaroo St at about 2.5m high and 3m wide.

Each male will then mate with several females, and his mound might eventually contain up to 50 eggs. A female may produce between 20 and 30 eggs in every six-month-long breeding season.

Once the female lays her egg 40–150cm down, however, she plays no part in tending the mound, with the burden of maintenance falling entirely to the male. The male turkey obsesses over the temperature of the mound, constantly fussing over it using his beak as a probe, inserting it into the mound as far down as the level of the eggs. His palate acts as a thermometer, and, depending on the temperature he senses, he removes or adds leaf-litter as needed.

Once the chicks have hatched, they are on their own and survival is tough in the urban environment with predation by foxes and cats their main threats. However, fox baiting by Councils and National Parks in recent years has reduced the number of foxes and allowed the turkeys to thrive. Bush Turkeys, like all native animals are protected.

<https://www.spotteron.com/bigcitybirds/>

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Sydney Water WRRF North Head

Invitation to participate

Sydney Water has issued the Manly community an invitation to join the **North Head Water Resources Recovery Facility Community Reference Group**. This Sydney Water CRG provides an opportunity to learn how the North Head WRRF operates along with all the other key Sydney Water projects in the Manly area. It also provides a forum for members to raise any issues, feedback or ideas that may improve how Sydney Water works and operations that impact us in the local community.

Members are asked to commit for two years to attend quarterly meetings, on a weekday 1 – 3pm at North Head. Age or qualifications are no barrier, just an interest in Sydney Water activities is needed.

Request a nomination form by phoning 9934 4423 or email northheadhub@sydneywater.com.au and submit it before Friday 25 July 2025.



Manly Town Hall on the agenda again

Councillors will again be discussing a Notice of Motion calling for a report setting out options for inviting Expressions of Interest for the redevelopment of Manly Town Hall. The report would incorporate solutions which may provide long-term-benefit to Council while respecting the heritage value of the building and its curtilage as well as in keeping with community expectations of providing a multi-use performance and exhibition space at no cost to Council but remaining in council ownership. The report is also expected to provide alternative solutions for Council’s operational (staff) needs in Manly.

Council votes to increase rates

The Public Gallery at the Dee Why Council Chambers was at full capacity for the 15 June Council meeting, with a colourful crowd including placard carrying supporters of those opposed to the rate increase as well as those in support of and against the Notice of Motion calling for Support for local connections to Palestine, a ceasefire in Gaza and condemnation of antisemitism and islamophobia. After a rowdy session of public speakers and then a marathon discussion toing and froing through questions, points of order, 3-minute speeches and numerous amendments which were voted down, Councillors eventually voted 11 for and 4 against the original motion to increase the rates by the amount supported by IPART along with adopting all the Strategic Plans and associated Budget and Financial reports.

Two of the must listen to moments of the meeting were Cllrs Robins and Harvey, both providing the most impassioned and interesting 6 minutes of the entire night, three hours into the meeting which went for about five hours. Check them out on the Council youtube site.

EOIs for Community Use of 34 Stuart St fail so it continues to be leased as a residential property

After five and half hours, and very late in the evening Councillors resolved in confidential session to accept the Council report on the Feasibility for Community Use of the Council owned cottage at 34 Stuart St. 34 Stuart St will continue with the current use with Council approving the continuation of the residential lease for the property for a further 12 months. Council will continue to seek and consider proposals for a suitable future community use for the premises with any proposal to be assessed against the criteria noted in the report. Council will also provide a report back on potential operational uses for the premises.

THE AGENCY

Considering Selling?

Jake and his team have a proven track record of successfully selling properties across Manly and the lower Northern Beaches. From entry-level apartments to luxury homes, they handle sales across all price points.

If you're thinking about selling or would like a property appraisal, call Jake.



9 Crown Road, **Queenscliff** **SOLD**



4/20 Reddall Street, **Manly**
Coming Soon Contact Agent



Jake Rowe
jakerowe@theagency.com.au
0414 612 546
Shop 1, 22 Darley Rd, Manly NSW 2095

Experience sells



Brickbats and Bouquets

- **Bouquet** to the East Coast Low for not doing too much damage to the Manly Ocean beach apart from removing a bit of sand.
- **Brickbat** to Council for Manly Rise. What was that again? Vivid lite? The Town Hall looked cool, but there is only so long you can stare at the lights changing colour on the front of a building!
- **Bouquet** to the fabulous businesses who hosted some activities over the last two weeks. Vini's cafe on the corner of Victoria Pde and Darley Rd looked fun and inviting with the deer all lit up on the corner.

Oh Deer! at Vini's



- **Bouquet** to National Parks and Wildlife Service for the successful fox-baiting and trapping program for removing a fox last month from North Head. Residents can report any fox sightings to Council, National Parks & Wildlife or Taronga zoo.
- **Bouquet** to Sydney Water for their work clearing the silt from the sewage tunnel at North Head. Special mention to the guys going 80m down the manhole opposite the Former Manly Hospital to the sewer tunnel on Darley Rd
- **Brickbat** to Australia Post Office for removing the red post box on Addison Rd and replacing it with an orange cone.



Winner of the Best Café Dining & Best Casual Dining of the Year in Australia for 2024 at the National Restaurant and Catering Awards!

LITTLE MANLY, LITTLE STRESS.

RIPPLES

rippleslittlemanly.com.au • On the beach, Stuart Street Manly • [@rippleslittlemanly](https://www.instagram.com/rippleslittlemanly)



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