



MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM

A community-led monthly newsletter for Manly residents

December 2023

Chair's wrap for 2023

Manly Community Forum has been successfully advocating for the Eastern Hill community for over 25 years. Starting out as the Little Manly Precinct Forum, meeting monthly at the Manly Yacht Club and supported by the former Manly Council it provided and continues to provide direct engagement with the Council on issues that concern local residents. In 2016 when the three northern beaches Councils were amalgamated the Little Manly Precinct Forum merged with the Fairy Bower Precinct Forum to become the Manly Community Forum.

Council appointed a staff member as the Community liaison and they have attended our meetings each month, along with other relevant specialist staff to discuss any topic we have raised with the Council. Manly Community Forum is also well supported by the Manly Ward Councillors, particularly Cllr Candy Bingham who lives in our area. The local State Government member, James Griffin MP also lives in our area and is a big supporter of the Forum.

Who runs the outfit?

The Forum is run by a small coordinating committee, the Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter team as well as the Website and communications team. Thanks to these community minded people for their reliable, ongoing, and regular support.

2023 saw 11 well attended Monday evening meetings and a total of 44000 newsletters delivered to the residents on the Eastern Hill and Manly CBD.

Achievements

If success is measured in outcomes, then the MCF is proud to announce that after 20 years of advocacy we are finally seeing a toilet installed at Little Manly Point carpark with construction starting in January 2024. Proof that this is happening is the frequency of hi viz clad people with plans and markers. The design of the new amenities will consist of an ambulant unisex toilet, accessible unisex toilet and unisex toilet with baby change facilities and will use modern resilient materials and neutral colours to blend into the parks natural environment.

The works will take approximately 4 months to complete, weather depending. Based on the experience over at Shelly this year we look forward to being able to use these toilets this time next year.

AGENDA

Christmas meeting



7pm Manly Yacht Club

- Annual report
- Quick Council updates
- Party starts at 7.30pm
- Entry donation at the door cash or direct bank transfer



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

This newsletter has been edited by Cathy Griffin
Chair of the Manly Community Forum
correspondence to secretary@manlycommunityforum.com



New toilet block coming soon

OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON MONDAY 18 DEC AT 7PM AT MANLY YACHT CLUB

Chair's wrap for 2023 continued.....

After many years of discussions and consultations with Council we are now seeing traffic calming devices and parking management measures installed on our roads, and flashy new pedestrian crossings, changes to speed limits, with more planned for the residential areas and electronic monitoring in our beachside carparks.

We look forward to the installation of a new pedestrian crossing on the south side of the Addison Rd and Stuart St intersection which has been advocated for many years and was recently elevated on the to do list of the Controversial Traffic Committee.

Hopefully it won't take 20 years to see the improvements on Darley Rd which we consider to be the 'Gateway to North Head' and is a very important location for our community.

Year in review

Early in the year we saw the construction of the Shelly beach amenities block commence and the increase in e-bikes escalated to the point where Council was asked to do a 'safety audit' to try to manage this emerging problem. At the end of the year Council wrote to the State Government requesting they look at legislating some controls of e-bikes and issued some online advice to parents considering buying an e-bike for Christmas. No doubt there will be a lot more discussion on this topic as we progress through 2024.

Mid year

We had to campaign hard to save the Hop Skip Jump bus and thanks to the very positive community response and advocacy by our Ward Councillors the service continues. Thanks to everyone in the community, including our leaders, who stood up to demonstrate the importance of this service which binds us all together.



Re surfacing some of Marine parade

At the November Council meeting Cllr Bingham sought and received the support of her colleagues to investigate a proposal for some inset paving artwork, in accordance with the Council's adopted Arts and Creativity Strategy and Public Art policy, to be inserted in the new proposed pavement on Marine Parade at the entry to Cabbage Tree Bay. Resurfacing of the footpath at the intersection of Marine Parade and Bower Lane in Manly is planned for June to August 2024, providing the opportunity for a small artwork to be incorporated in the paving, creating a focal point at the steps leading down to the water of Cabbage Tree Bay. Following community engagement, an artist's brief would be prepared with a maximum project budget of \$10,000. An artist and fabricator team will be directly appointed to deliver the project in conjunction with the footpath replacement which is currently asphalt that can be hot and rough on bare feet.

Manly Community Forum has request clarification that this resurfacing will include the section of walkway from Bower Lane to the shed as this is the area where most of the trip hazards exist



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

Darley Rd was a mess but some wins.

AUSGRID started digging up Darley Rd and whilst this did slow the traffic down considerably for six months, it was not what we had in mind as far as traffic calming was concerned. The road remains in appalling condition, and we will be pushing Council and the State Government to improve the area, including the road, next year. We will also be seeking the authorities coordinate their activities so all the repairs are done after the stormwater and Sydney Water small pipes are repaired.

Signs

In August, with Darley Rd a continuing mess, we had a small win on Marine Parade. Council replaced the sculpture walk braille signs and initiated an audit of the compliance signs on the power poles along the walkway. Now we wait to see some news signs installed as funds become available; not to mention resurfacing sections of the walkway, sorting out the stormwater pipes and completing the landscaping from Bower Lane to Manly.

Loads of Rubbish

September saw Council staff attend the meeting to provide a briefing on the proposed Waste Strategy. The big ask from the community was better management of the public place bins. Council has increased the number of collections of the bins and abandoned the e-bin trial at Shelly.

Manly Place Plan

The Manly Place Plan consultations, which commenced before COVID, and report to Council, were finally concluded and placed on exhibition. It will likely be adopted by Council in 2024 and we wait to see what will replace the old Manly 2015 plan.

Most proposals in the plan are unfunded, but we look forward to the proposed implementation of the plan over the next 10 or so years, particularly with the background of decisions to be made in the near future regarding the former Manly Town Hall, Manly Life Saving Club, Manly Wharf and the proposed residential developments on the beachfront and periphery of the CBD.



West Esplanade Harbour Pool

Less successful at the November council meeting was Councillor Bingham's bid to expand the footprint of the Manly tidal pool by proposing to

1. Expand the footprint of the Manly tidal pool;
2. Construct a deck around the outside of the pool; and
3. Include boat tie-up in conjunction with the pool structure.

In fact the motion was roundly criticised by the other Councillors with some very uninformed debate and was finally defeated unanimously.

The intention was that, as part of planning for the renewal of the West Esplanade tidal pool, Council investigates grant opportunities, environmental feasibility and regulatory obligations to update and replicate the structure along the line of the recently renewed harbour pools at Little Manly, North Harbour and Clontarf.

It seems that Councillor Bingham has given up her idea of the boardwalk from Manly Wharf to Federation Point but the other Councillors have no appetite to support a more practical upgrade plan to the existing West Esplanade harbour pool when the time comes for maintenance and renewal.

The State Government is currently conducting investigations on the old Manly Aquarium Building in preparation for its demolition planned for 2024. A boardwalk /open space area was proposed, however the community has not seen what will actually be constructed on the site once the building has gone.

Given this harbour pool will require renewal in the future it is not unreasonable to explore the options to upgrade and improve the amenity of the structure and see a benefit to the community.



THE AGENCY



802/1-3 Raglan Street, Manly



Beachside apartment with sparkling ocean views

Sold at Auction for \$1,220,000



802/1-3 Raglan Street, Manly just sold at Auction for \$1,220,000.

We currently have a number of buyers looking to secure houses or apartments in the Manly area. If you are thinking of selling your home please get in touch with Jake.

Jake Rowe and team would like to wish you and your family all the best for the festive season!

Jake has sold over 600 properties in the Manly area over the past 20 years and has set numerous suburb records during this time. 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

Looking forward to 2024

The Manly Community Forum hope that the community will continue to support their activities, by attending the meetings, currently held every third Monday of the Month at 7pm at the Manly Yacht Club, reading the newsletters or checking the website as well as corresponding via our email to secretary@manlycommunityforum.com

We will be keeping an eye out for the call for EOIs for Number 34 Stuart St (adjacent to the LM dinghy storage). Any proposals must be in accordance with the Little Manly Beach Masterplan, which also includes the demolition of Number 40 Stuart St (adjacent to the LM beach park).

Also on our watch list for attention and action

- The rear of Shelly beach once the temporary amenities have been removed.
- Little Manly Point Park bridge and sinkhole now fenced off. We await the geotechnical report to see what will be done to fix the area.
- Darley Rd which will be referred to in future as the Gateway to North Head. We will be advocating for some beneficial improvements to the entire length of the road. We will be asking for new footpath paving, improved cycle lane, more appropriate street trees, new pedestrian crossing at Ashburner, speed monitoring, better signage or road treatment to stop cars turning off Darley into the one way section of Ashburner and more. Ideas welcome.

2024 will see our Community representatives continue attending the North Head Waste Water Treatment Plant (NHWTP) Community Reference Group, the Quarantine Community Consultation Committee QSCCC, The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust Community Reference Group (SHFT) and the Northern Beaches Council Forums Executives meetings to keep everyone informed.

Brickbats & Bouquets

- **Bouquet** to the Echidnas who have increased their numbers on North Head from 18 individuals in 2014 to over 30 in 2023.
- **Brickbat** to Council mechanical street leaf sweeper. The middle of the roads is not generally where all the leaf litter is. If residents do helpfully sweep the leaves into the middle of the road it would be great if the sweeper then came along and swept them up.
- **Bouquet.** to the parents of Manly Village Public School for ebiking their kids to and from school each day and to the end of year concert.
- **Brickbat** to the people still railing against e-bikes. To those getting an ebike for Christmas make sure you read https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/council/news/e_bike_essentials_parents_guide_safe_riding?fbclid=IwAR08vL9snxOkVFpOSOC-GjQ5j5ruE3_Um6l5Wv5XGxDIF9RT_VhQJuTvayM
- **Bouquet** to the fabulous performers at the Christmas Carols on Manly Oval this year. Local talent in Northern Beaches Orchestra, Community Christmas Choir, and local artists is outstanding.



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