

SEPTEMBER 2020

MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM

A community-led monthly newsletter for Manly residents.

Little Manly Pool



Little Manly tidal pool looks stunning after its \$500,000 rebuild. The Council has kept the heritage look while installing a smooth new boardwalk and beautiful wooden corner platform, complete with ladders. The crooked old shark bars have been replaced with seahorse-friendly netting. It's a good thing the netting is strong as it has already become a replacement ladder at the beach. Should we get a real ladder at the beach onto the walkway?

Hugo's Bid to Expand

Hugo's at Manly Wharf has submitted a proposal to expand its outdoor seating area, adding tables at its southern end (pictured below), and expanding its outdoor deck.



Moveable tables are proposed on the wharf walkway opposite the ferry buffers. While Hugo's says the extra seating is acceptable as "a walkway of 2.4m will be maintained", this is unlikely to take into account waiters serving or customers clustering. The wharf decking would be extended, both for the existing restaurant deck area and for a small part of the adjacent public area, doubling the capacity of the deck from 40 to 80. The work would require installing three structural piles for the extra decking and repairing two more. The proposal is costed at \$320,000 in total. For details and to comment, search Northern Beaches Council Property Search and enter DA2020/0962.

EDITOR'S COMMENT: The extension of the western side of the wharf into Manly Cove and the narrowing of the south end walkway are a substantial reduction of public space. Restaurant developments already restrict public access on the west side of the wharf, while on the east side the public run the gauntlet through the Wharf Bar and the Wharf Hotel. On both sides staff and customers cross the public walkways, while inside, shops and cafes clutter public space in the centre of the wharf. What is the real benefit with this DA? Is it a grab for more rental from the wharf lease management? Is it more revenue to Transport for NSW through an unnecessary expansion of the wharf over seagrass areas and the nest area of fairy penguins? Or, is it simply giving the public what they want - more licensed restaurants, albeit without extra parking or transport infrastructure? And for locals, more potential for antisocial behaviour and noise. Where does it end?

Why a Safe Speed Zone?

Manly CBD and surrounds are now 30km/h safe speed zones as part of a Transport for NSW trial. Some residents oppose the trial saying lowering the speed is solving a problem that doesn't exist. But Council has revealed that there were 92 accidents reported to police in the trial area over the last 5 years with one third of them involving pedestrians or cyclists. And with COVID-19 and more people working from home, there will be even more bikes, walkers and runners about.

NEXT MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM ZOOM MEETING IS MONDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER AT 4:30PM.
TO TAKE PART EMAIL [KANDYTAGG@GMAIL.COM](mailto:kandytagg@gmail.com)

Little Manly Kiosk "Ripples Cafe"

Plans have finally been released for Little Manly Kiosk. The eating area will be smartened up with glass windows replacing the existing rollers blinds. There will be 5 outdoor tables and a new takeaway area on the north side of the building. The kitchen area will be rebuilt and a cool room and freezer room added. Hours won't change and there is no application for a liquor license. The upgrade to a Ripples-style cafe is costed at \$495,000. We have asked Council to build the new path, planned to go around the front of the cafe, before renovations begin. The existing path, which links to Little Manly Point and North Head, goes right through the middle of the cafe. The cafe has been a disappointment up to now, with irregular opening times and an uninspiring menu. Let's hope it changes. For details and to have your say, search Northern Beaches Council Property Search and enter DA2020/1027.



Living with Fliteboards

These motorised surfboards are now in Cabbage Tree Bay, worrying swimmers, scuba divers and locals generally. Council does not have jurisdiction over the water and can't ban their use. Instead, after discussions with the Forum, locals, Cr Candy Bingham and fliteboards owners, Council has instigated a self-regulated control plan: fliteboarders are to move directly through Cabbage Tree Bay to open ocean while keeping to a walking pace, not foiling up out of the water, and keeping as far as possible from swimmers. Please advise rangers if this is not happening.

Manly Library Fails to Tell Story

Poor communication and COVID delays have plagued Manly Library's recent fit out. The much-loved children's amphitheatre has been removed to turn the whole ground floor into a brighter, more open space. The kids' area has been relocated to the back of the library, with access to the meeting room next door. Although there's more room here, many mums thought kids were getting a worse deal. However bright soft furnishings are on the way and when the refit is complete it should be a win for everyone. Early communication by Council would have helped considerably.



"Recreational Hub" in Fairlight

Manly Boatshed in Fairlight will become a "recreational hub" if a \$1.9m proposal to transform the existing boat storage business is approved by Council. The proposal is to increase storage capacity, improve water access, renovate the first floor of the building and add a cafe. While some residents are worried about noise and lack of car parking, others welcome the plan. You can comment on the DA (DA2020/0514) on the Council website.

Bollards are Coming

Bollards will be installed in three locations in Manly CBD as part of the Council's Public Space Protection Program. They are Manly Wharf and the intersections of Belgrave St and The Corso, and Sydney Rd and Whistler St.

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Activate Manly Road Closures

This may be a little contradictory, however, the Council has gained a grant to improve safety and add to activation of areas. The grant is more than \$800,000 and will be utilised between works programs to improve the roadway/safety at locations including the Serpentine at Bilgola and pedestrian and bike activation and safety in the Manly CBD area. Very commendable and everybody knows that increasing pedestrian and bike safety is an issue, however, the Manly project is suggested by Council as follows:

"The Activate Manly project creates a walking and cycling-friendly link from the intersection of Darley Rd with Wentworth St all the way to Kangaroo Ln, linking to existing cycleway infrastructure. The project would provide a safe cycling route as well as to set up 10 km/h shared zones along the route for safer and more attractive walking to and from the Manly town centre. Additionally, around half of the on-street parking on The Corso and Darley Rd (Wentworth St to The Corso) could be converted to outdoor dining to support local businesses in their recovery from the COVID-19 crisis."

The proposed project has not yet been sanctioned by the Council Traffic Committee. There will then be community consultation before Council makes a final decision. However, it does seem to have a head of steam and given that a grant has been allocated to the project, we are expecting changes to vehicle traffic areas and the loss of some Corso parking, as well as the loss of one route into The Corso area from Sydney Rd and Whistler St car park.

Local Business Awards Open

Council seeks nominations for a local business who has gone above and beyond in sustainability or been inclusive to all.

It's Time - New Beach Parking Permits

Beach parking permits, which allow rate payers to park at over 40 Northern Beaches locations, expired on 31 August.

Telstra Tower



A Telstra phone tower will be installed on top of the multi-story Carillon Apartments building at 25 Marshall St. Details on our website soon.

Big Plans for Town Hall

We may gain a stunning new community space now that Manly Town Hall has been identified as surplus to Council requirements. The grand old building right in the heart of the village will not be sold and will remain in public hands. Possible uses include an art gallery or a multi-purpose venue with a theatre/cinema space and meeting rooms. The community consultation process will start soon.



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 - Good News & Bad

Council is doing a wonderful job on the park upgrade. The sandstone edging, new gardens and turf, seating and exercise facilities are excellent. It's true that work on the new toilet block is slow but that's due to the challenge of threading the sewerage and power lines around the roots of the heritage fig tree. The toilets should be completed by December, but if not the Council has promised temporary facilities. Another big win is that the "heritage" style lighting on Manly Cove is here to stay. The globes and plinths were not available off-the-shelf, so a different style was suggested by Council staff. However people love the distinctive round look and Council will now be repairing and rewiring the lights as required, while keeping the special "Manly" look. The plinths will be used for Council notices, as they were intended. Lights removed from near the wharf will also be replaced. The safety lighting on the ramp to the clubs at the southern end of East Esplanade is being replaced with suitable down lights. The dangerous stormwater access drains will be renewed and the old pits filled in. Please express your appreciation to Council; this has been an ongoing issue for more than a decade.

However, people using the park are completely ignoring Council's big "No Alcohol" sign, and gathering in groups much larger and closer together than the law currently allows. The Forum has asked Council to review ranger patrols times. Rangers now start their night patrols at 5 or 6pm, meaning there is no control over drinking during the afternoon. Alcohol-fuelled antisocial behaviour is already a problem, and it will get worse as the weather warms up and groups stay on. The Forum believes that Council must now formally reinstate a total alcohol ban in East Esplanade Reserve. This will strengthen the hand of police and rangers to control bad behaviour, and enforce social distancing to help keep Manly COVID-free. For now there will be a closer policing of the regulations, but it is clear that this park and beach area should not remain as the only public area without a total alcohol ban.

Just before going to print Council has done an about face and reverted to drinking allowed 8am to 8pm. Go figure?

Parking Permits

The new residents parking scheme has landed. It's aimed at freeing up street parking for locals while still allowing access for visitors and tradies.

For details, and applications for Little Manly - which is the first precinct to get the new scheme - search Northern Beaches Council Manly Parking Permit Scheme or call 1300 434 434.



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