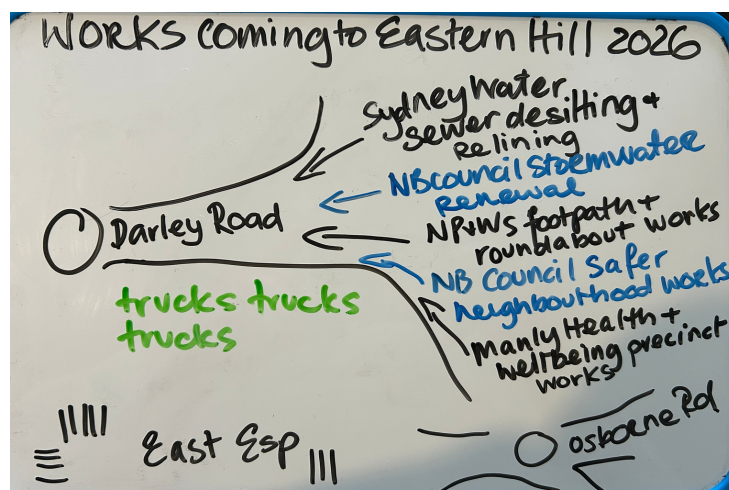


MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM

A community led monthly newsletter for Manly residents

October 2025



Darley Rd & North Head update

2026 is shaping up to be a very big year for 'public works' on the Eastern Hill.

- Northern Beaches Council is planning a 2-to-3-month stormwater renewal project that will extend from Cliff Street to Ashburner St,
- Northern Beaches Council will commence works on the Safe Neighbourhood project which includes the installation of several pedestrian crossings, bike lanes, and other traffic calming devices on Eastern Hill.
- Sydney Water is currently scoping the final section of the sewer desilting and relining project. This will result in accessing the sewer from Darley Rd for several months.
- National Parks & Wildlife Service are considering plans to install a footpath from the Parkhill Archway to a new roundabout at the Q Station entrance. This will include renewal of several bus stops along the route.
- Aveo is currently working through all the reports required for the creation of the Manly Health and Wellbeing Precinct. The Project hopes to have these completed and approved by the end of 2026 when the heavy works of removing some of the old buildings and rebuilding will commence.
- The Australian Institute of Police Management is currently renovating its buildings.
- The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust continues to restore the buildings in its North Head Sanctuary location.

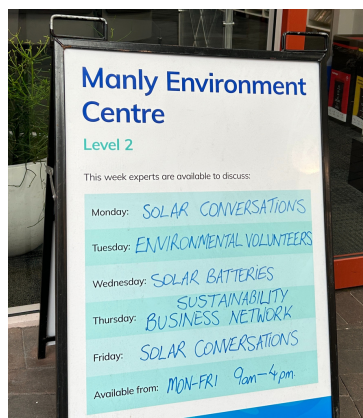
All the time the buses, garbage collections trucks, Sydney Water sludge trucks and work trucks to the various locations on North Head will continue.

AGENDA

- Darley Road and North Head update
- Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) report
- Manly Life Saving Club DA update
- 2025 priorities Council updates

editor: Cathy Griffin

secretary@manlycommunityforum.com



Go Solar

The Northern Beaches produces approximately 1.8 million tonnes of CO₂ a year, with electricity consumption responsible for approximately 56% of that (FY20/21).

Over 22,378 premises in the Northern Beaches LGA now benefit from solar power, which is reducing carbon emissions by approximately 144,000 tonnes each year (Australian Photovoltaic Institute [APVI] update 31/03/25). This is the equivalent of over 44,000 cars off the road per year.

Council has set an ambitious target of "50% of suitable premises with solar panels installed by 2030". As well as reducing emission households with solar PV are now collectively saving over \$27.3 million per year (APVI update 31/03/25).

A household with a 10kW solar system could save more than \$1650 per year on their energy bill (APVI, 2021).

Northern Beaches Council offers independent information on ways on how to become more energy efficient, install solar panels and other changes to lower the community's carbon footprint.

OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON MONDAY 20 OCT 25 AT 7PM AT THE MANLY YACHT CLUB

Manly Special Entertainment Precinct

Acoustic Study

The consultation process for establishing the Manly Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) is well underway. So far there has been two Project Working Group (PRG) meetings held at the Manly Town Hall. The first was a visioning exercise where the participants, residents, business owners and operators and council staff discussed what they would like to see in terms of entertainment in the Manly CBD. The responses were predictable, a cinema, cafes open beyond 3pm, live music and theatre entertainment venues, bring back the amphitheatre in the Corso (or somewhere else) etc. The second PWG was a more technical presentation by the sound engineer Consultant on how 'sound' would be measured and what controls there could be put in place on noise coming from the venues in the declared SEP area. Entertainment sound in a SEP includes:

- sound emissions from live or recorded music, entertainment and/or performance (both indoor and outdoor)
- sound associated with patrons arriving & leaving venues
- the sale and supply of liquor, provision of food/dining services
- staff or patrons conversing and singing
- set up, pack downs, rehearsals and sound checks.

Ultimately the SEP will have generic sound controls legislated for the designated area and will apply to any venue within the SEP. Compliance will be managed by NSW Liquor and Gaming not Council. Council will continue to have jurisdiction over the public areas and noise emanating from mechanical ventilation equipment such as air conditioners or extraction fans, private residences or noise in the public domain and not directly related to any particular venue. The Council has determined that there are approximately 8,000 residents in the SEP.

Compliance for these sound controls within the SEP will now fall to the NSW Liquor and Gaming Authority. While other noise complaints remain with the NSW EPA for environmental noise issues (131 555) or the Northern Beaches Council for local residential noise. and for urgent noise disturbances call the Police (131 444).

Consideration will be given to applying these Sound and Noise controls for outdoor events in the Corso and other areas in the SEP.

Once this work is completed Council Planning staff will prepare a Precinct Management Plan which will set out the boundaries of the SEP along with new trading hours, sound controls, compliance procedures. A proposal for inclusion in the Manly Local Environment Plan (LEP) will then be placed on public exhibition for further comment for the wider community. Adoption by Council will follow after presentation and debate at a Council meeting.



Felons on the Wharf

Felons are continuing to focus on rejuvenating Manly Wharf and are excited to share what's coming next. Their goal has been to make this incredible place even more welcoming for families - somewhere kids can play, parents can relax, and everyone can enjoy the harbour.

They are expanding the deck area near Felons and creating a new kids' play space on the Wharf, adding palm trees for more greenery and shade, with the centrepiece an upcycled 1930s timber boat, converted into a playground they hope will spark imagination and adventure.

The existing concrete amphitheatre will be re-clad in recycled timber and transformed into a seating and viewing area for the whole community.

Importantly, access through the Wharf to the ferries will stay open while they deliver these improvements and after their completion.

Felons currently has three different building contractors working on various projects on the Manly Wharf all aiming to finish by the end of the year.



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Manly Theatre Group

The Founder and President of Manly Theatre Group and co-founder of manly42 (a new local community hub), was excited to be part of Northern Beaches Council's Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) trial that began last month. This initiative aims to shape a vibrant, safe and inclusive nighttime economy for Manly.

They reported that so far, the SEP Working Group has had two well-attended and well-run meetings at the Town Hall. The first explored the kinds of activities we'd like to see in a 24-hour economy and across the seasons. The second focused on mapping areas that could host late-night activity. The most rewarding part was connecting with local businesses, residents and community leaders who share a genuine care for Manly's future.

A central focus was ensuring that cultural and community-driven activities thrive alongside traditional boozy nightlife. For example, Manly Theatre Group will soon launch their 4th annual Manly Festival of Short Plays (13–22 November), showcasing 12 locally written works performed by a cast of 38 local actors. They have also just moved into a new home at 56 Raglan Street, part of St Andrews, complete with a beautiful vaulted "blue sky" ceiling - currently taking suggestions for its name!

The SEP discussions also sparked the exciting idea of reviving Manly's once-famous Corso amphitheatre, reimagined for Ivanhoe Park behind the Manly oval and bowling greens. Picture an open stage hosting acoustic music, Shakespeare productions, stand-up comedy, public debates and gatherings like the 'Under the Moon' philosophy group, all in a tranquil setting amongst the trees, softly lit with twinkling lights and welcoming to all.

The vision is for Manly to be celebrated not only for its stunning beach but also as a cultural hub that fosters connection, creativity and community spirit. With so much local talent, we have a unique opportunity to create a village-like atmosphere that brings people together in meaningful ways, especially in an age so dominated by technology.

If you would like to get involved with Manly Theatre Group, the community activities of manly42 or the Under the Moon Philosophy group, please see below websites, or alternatively reach out to zoe@manly42.com to discuss the amphitheatre idea in Ivanhoe Park.

Together with our community and the Council, we are excited to keep shaping initiatives that enrich the lives of residents and foster genuine human connection in Manly.



Share your concerns about safety

The Community Safety Plan 2021 – 2026 expires next year and we will be drafting a new Plan for the following 5 years.

Council is now seeking feedback on the Community Safety Plan which will guide actions for the next 5 years by addressing emerging issues under the key priorities of:

- Safe People – support for the community to access people, organisations and information that can help when they need assistance.
- Safe Places – support for the community to be safe in public, at home and online.

The Plan will identify key areas for improvement and outline practical actions Council can take to create a safer community for all ages, backgrounds and abilities.

The Plan will align with Council's long-term strategies, including the Better Together Social Sustainability Strategy 2040 and the Community Strategic Plan 2040.

Council is seeking feedback on

- The specific concerns and needs of our community.
- How different groups experience safety – including young people, older residents, women, people with disability, and culturally diverse communities.
- Where targeted improvements are needed to build safety in public spaces and improve access to services that support your safety.

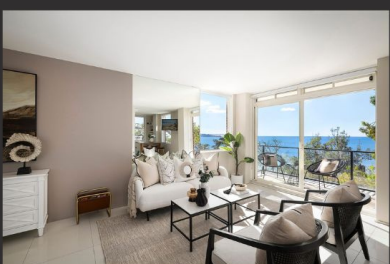
Over the years there has been a lot of discussion at the MCF about various locations on the Eastern Hill that need more or better lighting, less disruptive party noises and broken glass in the parks and reserves well after midnight etc.

Place a pin on the map to share an area you feel safe or areas where you don't feel safe.

The Survey on the Your Say page closes on 26 Oct 2025



3/75 Stuart Street, Manly **SOLD**



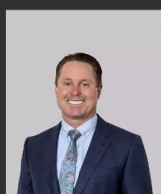
1/132 Bower Street, Manly **SOLD**

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Brickbats and Bouquets

- **Brickbat** to the school kids who have been trashing the parks and reserves during their end of term celebrations and school holidays. Please take your rubbish home or dispose of it in the bins provided. Don't leave your litter at Little Manly beach, the boat ramp, Jump rock, or Little Manly Point...and don't damage other people's property. The boats in the Cove are not yours to play on and damage.
- **Bouquet** to the Sunday morning Emu Parade community volunteer team who spent their Sunday morning cleaning Little Manly Beach and park for a free coffee.
- **Brickbat** to the termites that ate the floor of the newly restored gymnasium at North Head (former School of Artillery) delaying the leasing to the Pickle Ball club.



Emu Parade team with bags of litter



- **Bouquet** to those still using the Hop Skip Jump bus and making the new timetable work for them. Use it or lose it.
- **Brickbat** to the chewing gummers who are spitting their yuck out onto the pavements. This is as anti social as not picking up after your dog

@ep.cleanup



- **Brickbat** to the Northern Beaches Council. It is now half way through October and they still have not submitted a DA for the Manly Life Saving Club after promising it would be up at the end of June. The 25/26 Life Saving Club season has begun and both Club members and the community should not be left wondering what it going to happen on South Steyne.

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

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