

MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM

A community-led monthly newsletter for Manly residents

August 2022

Echidna census Eastern Hill and North Head 2022/23

In 2013/14 the North Head Sanctuary Foundation did a year long survey census of echidnas on North Head. They identified 18 adult echidnas, which is considered a very high number for the 300ha area. Echidnas have a very strict diet of ants and other select ground dwelling insects, often traveling several km to satisfy their needs. Using photo survey mapping the study assessed where they were living as they searched for food or a mate.

Starting this September the North Head Sanctuary foundation is conducting another census to update and further study our echidna population. This time they are asking visitors to North Head and residents on the Eastern Hill to send a photo of any echidnas they see in the area, along with the location and time of the sighting via email twswoombat@iinet.net.au

The photos will be displayed at the North Head Sanctuary Foundation Visitor Centre in Building 20 just up the road from the Parade Ground as the survey progresses.

The best photos used to identify the individual echidnas are those that show the echidna side on so that the colour pattern of its spines and the length of its beak can be seen.

Be patient with the echidna, move slowly and patiently and it may even come up to you and pose for its portrait.

For more info check

www.northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au



AGENDA

- Update on traffic issues on Eastern Hill and CBD Council Staff presentation
- Parklet seating trial in the Corso & Darley Rd
- Council works update
- Manly Town Hall update
- Tribute to Ray Mathieson (BYO for the toast)

Council works update

The Craig Ave boat ramp repairs have been completed and now the contractor is working to complete the remaining works at Little Manly.

Despite the rain and some stoppages to allow the Department of Heritage to check the area for human remains the work is on time for completion before summer. After the large sandstone steps are installed the area will be turfed, memorial benches replaced and a picnic table and shelter added at the rear of the park in memory of Ray Mathieson our recently passed chair. A hard footpath will also be completed to allow access in front of the cafe.

Work to demolish the adjacent council owned property, 40 Stuart St, and incorporate the area into the park will commence in March 2023. This will take some time as the demolition is complicated by the presence of asbestos and lead paint.

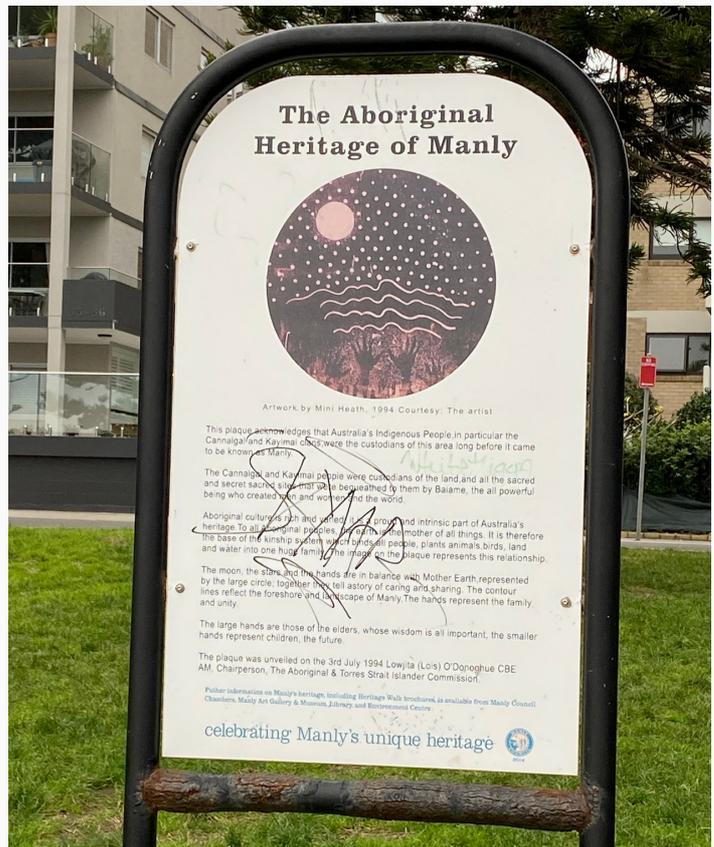
The cafe is also taking advantage of the slow winter trading to complete their work. We look forward to summer when all the work is finished.

Work on the toilets promised for the carpark area at Little Manly Point Park and at Shelly beach will commence in January 2023.

OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON MONDAY 15 AUG AT 7PM AT MANLY YACHT CLUB

Brickbats and Bouquets

- **Bouquet** to the Council and businesses for removing the white picket fence enclosing the tables in Market Lane. Great improvement in aesthetic and access now the fence has gone.
- **Brickbats** to the dog owners assuming Little Manly Point Park is an off leash area. It is not. Please keep your dogs on leash; use the council provided dog waste bags and dispose of them properly in one of the many bins. Keep dogs away from picnickers, kids and exercise groups etc and don't encourage dogs to chase and harass the brush turkeys. And while we are on about responsible pet ownership please keep your cats indoor to protect our wildlife
- **Bouquet** to Northern Beaches Council for seeking to source compostable dog waste bags to replace the current black plastic dog waste bags that are distributed in dispensers in sanctioned off leash dog parks, exercise areas and walking trails. Northern Beaches residents currently consume approximately 4,000,000 dog waste bags in the LGA per annum. Yes, that is 4 million plastic bags to landfill
- **Brickbat** to the local police for insisting Council install the two low railings, apparently for safety reasons and to stop people dancing on the platform around the fig tree on East Esplanade. Everyone is still scratching their heads over this one.
- **Brickbat** to council for only one rusty and graffitied interpretive sign acknowledging the Aboriginal heritage of the Manly area. Although this sign was unveiled in 1994 and is still valid we should be doing more to acknowledge and educate everyone about the aboriginal heritage of the area.



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Medallions for @bonditomanly walk

Building on the 20 years work of the Sydney @Walkingvolunteers to map the walking paths along our urban coastline, and after collaboration with local Aboriginal Land Councils, Local and State Government Departments, the 80km Bondi to Manly walk has now been formally mapped and joins the world of International Iconic Walks. The Bondi to Manly Walk Supporters, with one full time staff member and a small team of volunteers, is a not-for-profit incorporated association and a registered Australian Charity. They have been active in our area attaching their wayfinding medallions to power poles and fence posts to guide walkers.

The insta famous @bonditomanly aboriginal artwork inspired medallions now adorn fence posts and power poles from East Esplanade along Stuart St to Little Manly Point park via Little Manly beach. Cloth badges bearing the same iconic yellow on black whale symbol are available for purchase at the Manly Visitor Information Centre at Manly Wharf. Download the app and post your pics.



Traffic studies for Eastern Hill

At a recent meeting the Manly Community Forum discussed the increasing problems created by speeding traffic at the bottom of Darley Road near the Ashburner Street pedestrian crossing and where the speed limit changes for the school and CBD area. The Forum requested the Council consider reducing the speed limit along Darley Road to 40kph. Some suggested only the trucks needed to reduce their speed and others thought a pedestrian crossing should be installed at Addison Road and Darley Road intersection.

Residents pointed out that conditions on the road had changed substantially over the past 10 years with an increase in traffic including buses and trucks, using the road as St Paul College increased their enrolments, along with the ICMS, the school and daycare in the Harbour Trust area and Manly Hospice almost completed, as well as the increased capacity at the North Head Waste Water Treatment Plant resulting in a greater number of sludge truck movements. In addition the popularity of walking and cycling up and down Darley Road to access the new lookouts at North Head has made the road very busy.

National Parks and Wildlife Service are also proposing a pedestrian crossing on Bluefish Drive, from the National Park track into the Trust track as well as other ways to improve pedestrian safety at the intersection of Bluefish Drive, Darley Road and Scenic Drive.

Council has agreed to consider the whole Fairy Bower and Eastern Hill area under the 'Safe residential speed limit program' with investigations and traffic studies commencing over the summer peak period. Infrastructure recommendations, such as pedestrian crossings, speed limit and other signage as deemed appropriate, would then be considered for the 23/24 infrastructure program.

The Council Transport Network team will be attending the August meeting to discuss this program.



12/48A Queenscliff Road Queenscliff - \$3,650,000



9/104 Darley Road Manly - \$4,187,500

Jake and his team have just had two outstanding sales of 3 bedroom apartments in the local area. Both of these apartments were sold at Auction. Choosing an agent with the skillset to get results in a changing market is critical.

Jake has sold over 500 properties in the Manly area over the past 20 years. If you are looking for an agent with an exceptional track record, look no further than Jake Rowe.



Jake Rowe

The Agency Manly

M 0414 612 546

jakerowe@theagency.com.au

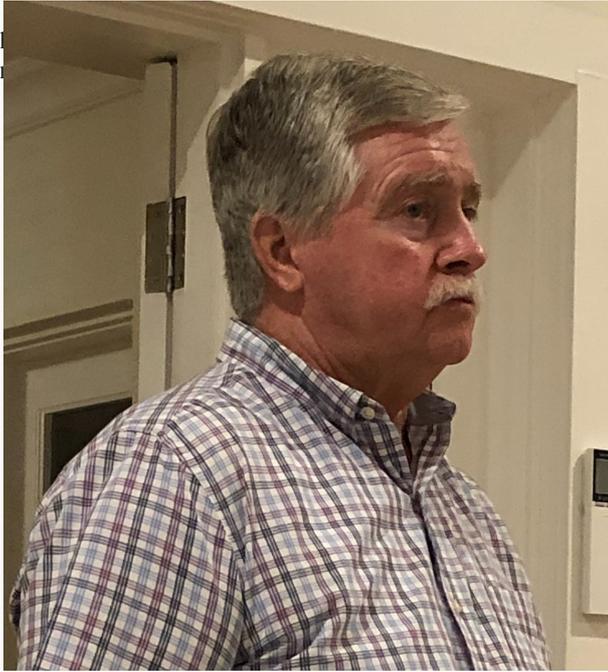
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Obituary

Ray Mathieson

Our deepest condolences to Anne and the Mathieson family as we sadly advise the passing of the Chair of the Manly Community Forum, Ray Mathieson. He will be a great loss to not only his family but also the Manly community. Ray was diagnosed with an aggressive Glioblastoma or GBM brain cancer in September 2021 and after successful radiation, chemotherapy, brain surgery, a number of natural therapies, exercise and a strict diet he was determined to beat it with his trademark humour and love for life. He retained his drivers license post surgery and continued to chair the Manly Community Forum but his final meeting was in May 2022, succumbing to this terrible disease on the 21st July 2022.



Ray was involved in the Little Manly Precinct Forum for 20 years variously as the Chair and other executive positions. More recently he chaired the Manly Community Forum. He was a member of many local committees, community groups and clubs. As a long time member of the former Manly Council Harbour Foreshore and Ocean Beach Committee where he championed all things coastal, including the reduction of pollution flowing into the harbour from stormwater pipes, improving dinghy storage and the LM harbour pool. As a founding member of the Manly Cove Neighbourhood Maritime Watch he advocated for better and safer boating and boat ramp facilities at Little Manly. Ray led the Little Manly Precinct Forum in successfully challenging Sydney Water and the then North Head Sewage Treatment Plant to reduce the number of smelly sludge trucks traveling down Darley Road and through Manly as well as reducing the odours emanating from the plant. Ray was also an influential member of the former Manly Council Safety committee, working with the then local Police Commander to establish the highly acclaimed Liquor Accord that aimed to reduce late night violence in the Corso and surrounds. More recently he worked hard on behalf of the community to get the Northern Beaches Council to re establish the Safety Committee. Unfortunately he will miss its first meeting. Ray represented the community on many former Manly Council committees, and did not relent with his community involvement after the amalgamation of the three NB Councils as he continued to participate in a number of Northern Beaches Council committees and consultations relating to the Manly Ward. Over the years he supported all our local representatives irrespective of their political affiliations, Federal and State members as well as Local Councillors, always welcoming them to the Little Manly Precinct and the Manly Community Forums. The community will miss his strong support and advocacy to make Manly, especially Little Manly, the wonderful place it is. As a tribute to Ray the Mathieson family welcomes a donation to the Mark Hughes Foundation which funds research into this little known surprisingly common and ultimately devastating terminal brain cancer.

<https://tribute.markhughesfoundation.com.au/page/RaymondJohnMathieson>

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