



MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM

A community-led monthly newsletter for Manly residents

December 2021

December Meeting Cancelled & Thanks

The December Forum Christmas party meeting at Manly Yacht Club has been cancelled. Our sincere apologies, we were so looking forward to catching up with everyone and celebrating Christmas together as well as meeting our newly elected Councillors.

Better safe than sorry with the new COVID-19 developments so the Forum has decided to defer in-person meetings until Monday 21st of February 2022. By then the newly elected Councillors will be well into their roles and in a good position to give an update on how they see their term panning out. We will also have feedback on the Manly Place Plan consultations to discuss with the newly elected Councillors at this meeting.

We hope you enjoy our final 2021 newsletter. A special thanks to Marisa Grimmer who has been putting the newsletter together for the past 5 years and is now moving on to other things. Thanks for your contribution to the running of the Forum. We are looking for someone with graphic art skills who would be willing to volunteer a few hours a month to put the newsletter together. We provide the content, you make it look good. If you are interested, please email secretary@manlycommunityforum.com for details.

Thanks to everyone who has participated in our Forum Zoom meetings over the past 12 months including the Northern Beaches Council staff. The Zoom meetings, although held earlier at 4.30pm, have attracted more community participation than some of our pre-COVID in-person meetings. Great to see our community so engaged and our Council responsive to our requests and suggestions. You can still keep in touch via the website or by email secretary@manlycommunityforum.com

Manly Place Plan

In 2007 Manly Council spent \$8 million on upgrading the Corso. Manly Council installed new lighting, water fountains, tree plantings, fresh new street furniture palettes, new tiles and removed the amphitheatre that was located in the centre of the Corso. A few years later it followed with an upgrade of Sydney Rd.

Now it's time for a review and rethink. The Manly Place Plan community consultation is well underway, with three online meetings/workshops held already. Council has engaged several

professional organisations, Ethos Urban, JMT Consulting, Atlas and HillPDA to conduct the consultation and workshops. And in its words, "the workshop seeks to gain community insight and input on core matters, to assist with progressing the Manly Place Plan and developing a vision and principles for Manly that can be supported by evidence and the community".

Manly Place Plan is a multi-disciplinary project. The process and work streams for the Place Plan will involve expertise across core matters. In preparation for this workshop, the project team has undertaken research to understand baseline evidence and aspirations across core matters.

But to the casual observer walking around Manly CBD it doesn't take much to see that "place planning" is happening ad hoc with or without the direction of, or adherence to a "vision" or plan. Just take a look at the apartment block rising above Whistler St and Short St.

Several DAs are currently with Council for consideration over the Christmas/New Year period. Notably DA 2021/2257 - 42 North Steyne/75 The Corso (The Steyne Hotel) where submissions close on the 27th of January 2022. The Ivanhoe Hotel is also owned by the same company and is advertising luxury apartment developments coming on Manly Beach and The Corso on its website.

New DAs are also slowly being processed for retail spaces on the Corso as well as for big projects such as the Royal Far West on the beachfront, the Manly Life Saving Club and the ICMS proposal for the S2 shop opposite the former Town Hall, which are all waiting to commence in the near future. In the meantime no decision has been made about the future of the former Town Hall.

The closing of submissions for the DA for the outdoor area in Market Lane adjacent to the Library preempts any outcome of the Manly Place Plan consultation. The DA for an outdoor bar in the public space in Market Lane closed on the 25th of November 2021.

This proposal assumes that the community agrees that it should be fenced off and become a licensed area. This triangle of public space should have been subject to genuine consultation, not just a few questionnaires responded to by people passing through.

CHRISTMAS PARTY MEETING AT THE MANLY YACHT CLUB IS CANCELLED.

NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY 21ST OF FEBRUARY 2022.

Manly Place Plan Continued...



A proper process with genuine consultation should have taken place via the Council *Your Say* page at the very least, followed by a report to Council. Has Council given consideration to the removal of the fire escape stairs? There is a report to Council that claims that these fire stairs are not necessary for emergency egress. Removal of these stairs would open the space up for public use. The 'waste plan' is completely inadequate to support this proposal.

The 'heritage' response by Council is also inadequate, with no reference to the original design of the 'triangle' space and its relationship to the Library building. Public artwork has been removed and the fundraising bricks are covered. The bicentenary bollards are ignored and the bin hide and storage proposed for the undercroft adjacent to the library windows is an insult to all the other cafes, bars and retailers in the area who have had to meet Council requirements to keep their bins on their own footprint. This is an important area for the community to consider and should also include the area at the entry to the Whistler St car park.



The biggest complaint most people have about this area is the large number of rubbish bins and the movement and frequency of the garbage and delivery trucks in the area. The white picket fence exacerbates the situation making access difficult and unsafe for pedestrians. Where is the discussion on how to resolve this and improve the amenity of the area? Where is the consideration for a common bin area for all the businesses to use at the entry to the area where the trucks gather now? Has Council considered building and then leasing a common area for this purpose and charging a management fee for its upkeep. This would reduce the garbage truck movements to a single location and make the laneway safer. Also not being considered as part of this Manly Place Plan consultation are the public spaces and amenities along the ocean beachfront and East and West Esplanade, including the NSW Government owned former Aquarium site.

With the money spent on this consultation Council could have been used to clean and replace the missing large white lights in Market Lane and Sydney Rd, create a bin hide for everyone, replace the clocks and put up some really interesting, quality decorations to cheer us all up for Christmas and New Year as well as fund a bit of music in the area without the addition of the rusty reconditioned shipping container and white picket fence.



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Bouquets

Bouquet to the local street sweeper - The recent rain has highlighted how important it is to keep the stormwater drains clear and clean of leaf and other litter to avoid localised flooding and fouling of the harbour and ocean. A local resident regularly sweeps his street's gutter clean and then asks the Council to send the street sweeper in his direction. Council did finally respond to requests to send the mechanical street sweeper down this street.



Bouquet to La Nina - Seems the weather is doing a better job than Council in managing the aberrant behaviour along the newly turfed East Esplanade. Good luck to the rangers who now have to ensure compliance with approvals for amplified music along the park.



Public Bins

These bins have the best view in Manly!



Friends of Cabbage Tree Bay (FOCTB) would love to see this area improved. The huge, filthy rubbish bins could be moved and replaced with a shelter and seat, a small storage area for the FOCTB blackboard, and new digital signage displaying information about local fish and sealife. Email your thoughts to secretary@manlycommunityforum.com.

Council has placed additional bins along the beachfront and in our parks. Should this be a permanent solution? Should the Council design a better bin-hide to improve the aesthetics of public spaces?

Manly Liquor Accord & Community Safety

The Community Safety Plan was adopted by Council at one of its final meetings before the elections. However, despite Manly being the main night time venue on the Northern Beaches and despite the police and Council establishing a local liquor accord for Manly pre amalgamation that worked closely with the police, the licensing authority, senior Council personnel and the late night venues, it appears that this has lapsed because of inaction. Sadly it appears that the authorities do not see it necessary to re-establish this very successful liquor accord to manage the late nights in the CBD.

More licensed premises are being approved and there is clearly pressure on all business owners to recover the losses incurred over the previous 2 years. However, it is more important that we do this in a way that maintains community safety.



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Boating Safety

Community members have observed an increase in the reckless and selfish behaviour of some boat owners in Little Manly Cove. This, coupled with an increase in the number of people using the beach and swimming outside the harbour pool area, is of great concern.

Some say this is an accident waiting to happen as boat operators ignore the 4-knot speed limit, drive erratically, possibly intoxicated, don't keep a good look out and get too close to swimmers and then anchor in the way of swimmers.

We encourage community members to report these incidents to the Roads and Maritime Services at <https://roads-waterways.transport.nsw.gov.au/contact-us/feedback-form.html>.

The boat ramp will be very busy over summer so we ask boat owners to be careful and abide by the rules and operate their boats safely.

Swimmers who enjoy swimming across the bay should also be aware that there are many and varied boats using the area. Be safe and careful everyone.

Please also remember that no dogs are allowed on the beach.

Council Election Results

Curl Curl Ward

Cr David Walton LIB
Cr Sue Heins YNB
Kristyn Glanville GRN

Manly Ward

Georgia Ryburn LIB
Cr Sarah Gratton YNB
Cr Candy Bingham GFM

Pittwater Ward

Cr Rory Amon LIB
Michael Gencher YNB
Miranda Korzy GRN

Frenchs Forest Ward

Cr Michael Regan YNB
Jose Menano - Pines YNB
Cr Stuart Sprott LIB

Narrabeen Ward

Bianca Crvelin LIB
Ruth Robins YNB
Cr Vincent De Luca IND

In total there are 5 Liberals, 1 Independent, 6 Your Northern Beaches, 2 Greens and 1 Good For Manly, 8 women and 7 men.

Congratulations to the three Councillors we elected to represent us in the Manly Ward:

Georgia Ryburn - Liberal,
Sarah Gratton - Your Northern Beaches, and
Candy Bingham - Good For Manly.

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