

# MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM

A community led monthly newsletter for Manly residents

December 2025



## On reflection, 2025

As 2025 draws to a close, we reflect on this year which has been marked by strong attendance numbers, even through the winter months, at our monthly meetings at the Manly Yacht Club. Whilst the time and day doesn't suit everyone, we have continued to deliver the newsletter, and many have written to us about various issues. Thanks to all the volunteers who have helped keep the wheels turning.

The year started with the Councillors agreeing to seek a rate rise. This was controversial and the MCF, collaborating with other community groups and the Manly Business Chamber, made submissions not supporting the proposed increase. In June IPART agreed to allow NBC to increase their rates but only by half of what the Council asked for.

Early in the year we heard from Sydney Water and their plans to 'desilt' the 28km NSOOS tunnel that takes around 25% of Sydney's sewage to North Head where it is processed and sent out the Deep Ocean outfalls 2.5km off North Head. This project is ongoing and we can expect more activity as the project in the tunnel progresses towards North Head. Sydney Water currently has two access points, one on North Head and one at the top of Darley Rd, both 80m down to the sewer tunnel. They continue to work on plans for additional access to the tunnel at the bottom of Darley Rd and we can anticipate something there in 2026. Community members will continue to attend the Reference Group meetings in 2026.

INSW Property announced that AVEO had been selected as their partner to redevelop the former Manly Hospital Site. They have been working away quietly completing all the necessary reports.

## AGENDA

- Christmas cheer
- Snacks and drinks (BYO glass)
- Convivial conversations
- Local gossip
- Thanks to everyone for their support

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**reflection continued.....**

A DA for the site will likely be submitted for consideration at the end of the first quarter in 2026. Progress on this can be followed on their website.

In the middle of the year Council began working on the Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) in accordance with the NSW State Government new Vibrancy Laws. Council has conducted four Working Groups meetings which has included all the large venue owners and managers as well as community representatives. They are now ready to submit the Planning Proposal for public exhibition early in 2026.

Throughout the MCF has been persistent in its whingeing about the state of Marine Parade and Bower Lane, particularly after the utilities finished their digging and NBC promised to 'make good' the footpath. Funding is available but we will have to be a little more patient while Council consolidates several projects into one and starts work early next year.

After a long wait since the announcement of the NSW State Government grant and approval for the pedestrian bridge over Manly Lagoon at Pittwater Rd we can see that Council has started work on this project.

National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Catholic church still haven't agreed on the remediation of the heritage stone wall that marks their boundary at Collins Flat.

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON MONDAY 15 DEC 25 AT 6PM AT LITTLE MANLY BEACH**

# New bin signs to tackle litter; are they just rubbish?

Last year (2024) the NBC was awarded a \$500,000 NSW Grant to employ staff with the specific mission to reduce litter in the area. So far NBC has collected a lot of data but only the volunteers appear to have been collecting the litter. At a meeting with the MCF and community members the Waste Staff revealed that they were reviewing the signage on the public place bins as part of their plan. In November we saw this innovative proposal come to fruition on the beachfront and on the Corso. However, the new signage on the bin hides has not resolved the issue of the bins' horrendous stench or cleanliness in the immediate surrounding areas or the overflowing bins at peak times. Food scraps, including dairy products as well as milky coffee cups souring on a hot day not to mention the compostable bags of dog poo in the mix make for a very toxic odour. Kudos to the council guys who empty the bins but these bins need a good regular hose out as well. Maybe the swimming and surfing community that gather at South Steyne each morning could be more conscientious about bringing their reusable coffee cups.

The community's priority in this area is implementing a program that changes single use and littering behaviour, especially on the beaches. Don't just change the signs/pictures on the bins, empty them regularly and keep them clean. More on this next year.

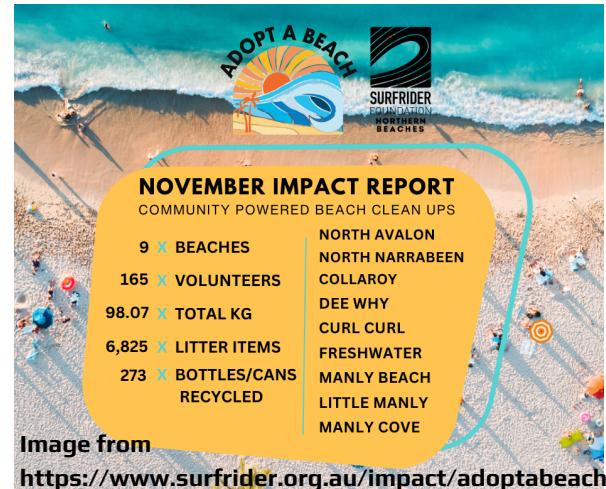


## Surfrider Foundation Northern Beaches #adoptabeach

Meanwhile the Surfrider Foundation Australia Northern Beaches #Adoptabeach program has been firing up their Clean beach program this year collecting an incredible amount of litter in Manly alone, along with providing the data to the Council. Their November stats are impressive, but the main game is to build an enduring community powered movement to protect the coast, educate communities on ways to reduce single use plastic consumption and identify and collate valuable data on pollution hotspots and potential sources of litter as well as advocate for greater government action on the issue.



Contents of the public place bin at South Steyne 10am on a weekday



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# Signs on our mind

How hard and how expensive is it to replace and install a new tourist map near the ramp at Shelly beach on Marine Parade and another one in the Shelly Beach car park? MCF has been asking Council forever to update the 'You are here' maps of the Manly environs including North Head on one of the most popular walks in Sydney. Now that the NB Council has removed the old sign and its frame, we can't complain about it anymore! We have been told that council staff are working on a new set of signs in the NB corporate livery.



## Looking forward to next year

In 2026 we can expect

- A report by Council staff to Councillors on the future of Manly Town Hall.
- Several projects rolled into one to resheet and improve Marine Parade at the Bower Lane entry to Cabbage Tree Bay commenced and completed and development of a masterplan for the area.
- Finalisation of documentation for Council to call for EOIs for EV charging facilities across the NBs
- Installation of a footpath along Scenic Drive, a new roundabout with upgraded bus stops by National Parks and Wildlife Services
- Digital Parking permits introduced in Manly Parking Permit precincts
- Darley Rd/Eastern Hill Safe Neighbourhood speed reduction works commenced
- West Esplanade accessible toilet relocation completed

## Unification by Eradication:

**Northern Beaches Council plans to celebrate its 10 year anniversary by removing all the old Manly Council signs by May 2026**

It is possible that we will see these new signs installed in May 2026 when the Northern Beaches Council celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Yes, it has been a long 10 years as the three former councils have slowly but surely been erased from the community's collective memory. Apart from 'harmonising' rates, policies, planning processes, LEPs, parking permits, fees and charges and more, the staff have also been working hard auditing all the signs across the entire LGA. They intend to replace all the former Councils' signs, including wayfinding and directional signs on walking tracks, footpaths, suburb boundaries, interpretation signs at special locations, building entries and more. A unique way to unite the community. This project is huge and complex. Each of the former three Councils had their own signage protocols, and there are thousands of different signs, including signs in the new NB Council livery, along with other levels of government and departments also installing their signs in many locations.



Last remaining original boundary sign on Sydney Rd.

## THE AGENCY

### Considering Selling?

Jake and his team have a proven track record of successfully selling properties across Manly and the lower Northern Beaches. From entry-level apartments to luxury homes, they handle sales across all price points.

If you're thinking about selling or would like a property appraisal, call Jake.



Jake Rowe

jakerowe@theagency.com.au

0414 612 546

Shop 1, 22 Darley Rd, Manly NSW 2095

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## Brickbats and Bouquets

- **Brickbat** to the MLSC member for tearing down the protest confluence signs and chucking them on the ground. Irrespective of your point of view that is littering.
- **Bouquet** to the local State Member for arranging the NSW State Government grant for Council to purchase two new accessible Hop Skip Jump buses now operating on the Eastern Hill route.
- **Brickbat** to Council for refusing to acknowledge that the sand blowing off the beach at the boat ramp end of Little Manly up Craig Ave, filling the carpark and the gutter across the road only to be swept into the stormwater drain is their problem to resolve or mitigate. The GPT drain in the middle of Craig Ave, recently emptied and cleaned, contained 40% sand.
- **Bouquet** to the 902 people who made a submission on the Manly Life Saving Club DA2025/1424, 521 in support and 381 not in support of the proposal. It should be noted that in all the submissions everyone affirmed their support for the volunteer lifesavers and the essential role they play in the community.

- **Bouquet** to Council Lifeguards. Legends



- **Bouquet** to Dept of Industry & Fisheries for removing the old Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve Sign in anticipation of it being replaced by a new colourful and informative interpretative sign with lots of fishy pictures.

• **Bouquet** to Friends of Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve volunteers for cleaning the bin hide at Shelly beach. If council cant or wont do it someone else has to! (yes we are a bit obsessed with keeping Manly, our beaches and parks clean, litter free and green, but is is important)



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



*LITTLE MANLY, LITTLE STRESS.*

# RI P P L E S

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