



MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM

A community-led monthly newsletter for Manly residents

March 2022

Welcome Back!

After months of Zoom, our next meeting will be the real thing. We will be back at our usual premises at Manly Yacht Club, with Local Member James Griffin as our special guest.

James, who is now the Minister for Environment and Heritage will speak about his new portfolio as well as his ongoing work on local issues. We are expecting our three Manly Ward councillors, Deputy Mayor Candy Bingham, Cr Sarah Grattan and Cr Georgia Ryburn, to be there to meet everyone as well

The meeting will be COVID safe - sorry no food or drinks - but all our familiar friendly faces will be there.

Next meeting will be at 7pm, 21 March at Manly Yacht Club.

Clean Up Australia Day Cancelled

Unfortunately a massive downpour over Manly early on the Sunday morning caused the cancellation of Clean up Australia Day.

But the localised flooding and dirty harbour and beaches is a timely reminder of how important it is not to litter or leave rubbish in our streets and parks. After 20 years of Clean Ups it is hard to imagine why we need to continue these events, but we do.

We will reschedule the day for when it has stopped raining and things have dried out. Thanks to those hardy few who did put on their wet weather gear and filled up a lot of bags with rubbish.



AGENDA

- Council Works Update
- James Griffin, Minister for Environment & Heritage
- Cabbage Tree Bay & Marine Parade
- Manly Place Plan

Brickbats & Bouquets

- **Bouquet** to the Council for fixing the damaged slab below the park bench at LM Point Park (pictured), with work going on despite the rain. And a general thanks for all the work Council staff and contractors are doing in the rain.
- **Brickbat** to the Council for continuing to refuse to remove the 'security fence' around the fig tree platform on East Esplanade. La Nina is doing a better job keeping the aberrant behaviour at bay.
- **Bouquet** to the Council for the excellent work cleaning The Corso early each morning; but what about the bird droppings and chewing gum that are all the way along to the beachfront?
- **Bouquet** to the Aqua Rugby organisers for their effort to put on a major event in Manly Cove and along West Esplanade. The weather and swell in the harbour made it very difficult for organisers, however, it was still quite a spectacle. Good luck next year.
- **Brickbat** to Northern Beaches Police Command for the lack of patrols after midnight on The Corso, especially around Manly Town Hall forecourt and adjacent shopping area. This matter will be raised for discussion at the upcoming Community Safety Meeting.
- **Brickbat** to Council for the poor communication with the community about special events happening in Manly, like the NSW Surf Lifesaving Championships and Volleyball competition along the beachfront. Parking was a nightmare.

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS IN PERSON
AT 7PM ON MONDAY 21 MARCH AT MANLY YACHT CLUB**

North Head Waste Water Treatment Plant

The North Head WWTP Community Reference Group met recently at the Treatment Plant on North Head. Keen discussions ensued after a number of presentations on Sydney Water's existing and proposed works along Marine Parade from Shelly to Bower Lane.

Works include relining the sewer pipe to ensure that it doesn't fail and pollute Cabbage Tree Bay. To complete this task Sydney Water will temporarily divert the sewer at Bower St into the main line up to North Head.

We asked why this couldn't be permanent and result in the decommissioning of the sewer along that section of Marine Pde. Sydney Water responded that there were technical issues, such as the size of the pumps etc but they would consider it and the costs involved as an option as part of the entire project.

The concrete encasement of the pipe in front of Bower lane has been completed and seems to be holding, but residents continue to be concerned about its efficacy.

As the population in Sydney grows, so does the need to increase the capacity at the North Head Waste Water Treatment Plant. To this end the biosolids upgrade is in progress.

This will mean additional construction trucks up and down Darley Rd, through Manly between 7am and 6pm Monday to Friday and Saturday mornings. They will make every effort to avoid the school start and finish times at the roundabout next to Manly Village school.

At the conclusion of the biosolid upgrade, which involves the installation of a third digester, there will be a consequent increase in volume of the biosolid product. Whilst the biosolids themselves will be less smelly and 'improved' they still need to be trucked out of the area. At the moment there is an average of one truck per day and this will increase slightly, but the capacity for each truck will increase from 30 tonne to 37 tonne per truck, therefore maintaining the current overall biosolid truck movements.

The trucks take the biosolids from North Head through Manly to a location near Lithgow where it is added to green waste and further composted before being used as beneficial fertiliser on farms further west.

Odour Complaints

After a complaint by a resident in Bower St about the odours recently emanating from the Plant and community members at the meeting reporting that the Sydney Water pumps just up from the toilet block at Shelly and the one in Whistler St near the cafes have both been very smelly for some time, the manager said North Head Water Resource Recovery Facility has had several upgrades over the years to reduce odour.

These upgrades and continuous improvements in operations have resulted in a substantial reduction in odour complaints. Major Periodic Maintenance programs are continuing for the Northside Storage Tunnel scrubber and Central Odour Control Facility. Meeting attendees said they would like to be informed on how odours are managed at the facility. This will be presented at the June Community Reference Group meeting. If you smell an offensive odour please report it to Sydney Water, the Council or the EPA.

Parking Titbits

Parking Front to Kerb along Manly Beachfront has been a talking point as it seems many people have been fined for parking rear to the kerb. This was determined many years ago by the former Manly Council to make it safer along the adjacent shared path.

Concerns continue with the two parking stickers issued with the rate notices, as there seems to be continuing confusion as to where they can be used and for how long. As well they are being made available for sale by unscrupulous ratepayers.

Feedback from locals on the Manly Resident Parking Schemes has been positive due to the reduction in passes being issued. Passes now require the car rego number to be displayed and only one visitor pass is available for each household. It's true there are many households that need more passes, but there are definitely more spaces available in each of the zones making it easier for permit holders to find a spot near their homes.

Council carparks in Manly seem to be underutilised in the evenings so the MCF has asked for the operations and fees charged to be reviewed. A resident suggested that the top of the Whistler St carpark be repurposed as an entertainment area, but sadly this is not possible for safety reasons.



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Refresh Vacluse & Diamond Bay Project

Sydney Water has launched the Refresh Vacluse & Diamond Bay wastewater project, which should bring big changes to the water and beaches here. This is why.

Ever wondered where all the litter and rubbish deposited on Collins, Little Manly and Manly Cove beaches comes from? Or why our section of the harbour is so turbid after a southerly?

Many people probably don't know that there are three sewage outfalls pumping untreated sewage directly off the cliff face into the ocean on the eastern side of South Head at Vacluse, Diamond Bay and Dover Heights.

After years of lobbying by the MCF committee members and others, Sydney Water finally has the funding and a project to stop this appalling pollution of our environment.

The plan, now well advanced, is to divert the wastewater away from the ocean and send it to a nearby treatment plant in Bondi, maximising the use of Sydney Water's existing network while keeping construction and environmental impacts to a minimum. HOORAY!

This means crap and litter won't be pushed around South Head into the harbour and across to Manly when there is a southerly, and we will see cleaner and safer beaches.



Anyone interested in joining this Sydney Water Community Reference Group Committee should get in contact with us.

It meets four times a year at North Head and is very interesting if water, waste or otherwise is your thing.

Manly Place Plan Update

The Manly Place Plan consultation will continue at a meeting in March. We will update the community on any progress next month. No-one is quite sure of any outcomes from the consultations thus far, but a report will be submitted to Council and then be put on public exhibition for the community at large to comment.

In the meantime the Northern Beaches Property Management Framework is on exhibition with submissions closing on 30 March 2022. This framework is the 'harmonisation' of the various property management policies from the three former councils.

Northern Beaches Council owns and manages, directly or via licences or leases, a wide variety of property that serves a range of community, administrative and commercial uses. There are 542 buildings and 2,900 land parcels, including surf and other sporting clubs, community centres, parks, car parks, public reserves, vacant land parcels, buildings on Council land and Crown land under the management of Council.

If you belong to an organisation that uses a Council building or property asset, or would like to use or access some form of Council property, check the Council Your Say page and comment. This framework will provide the policy guidance necessary for the repurposing of Manly Town Hall (below).



Welcome to The Agency Manly



The Agency are thrilled to announce the appointment of Jake Rowe and his team in joining them on the Northern Beaches. Jake is an established agent with over 30 years of real estate experience and is one of the top agents in the country.

This is a strategic merger and we look forward to seeing the continued success of Jake's sales results coupled with our National brand on the Northern Beaches.

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THE AGENCY

Why Do They Do the Same Thing Over & Over?

The weather was wild and the rain was incredible in Manly and all the Northern Beaches this month. Massive downpours on saturated ground met the high tide, with flooding everywhere. Who is listening here? Who has been watching and learning? Is anyone in authority paying attention?

The last East Coast Low blew up the stormwater pipe along the footpath at Bower Lane a few years back. Council and Sydney Water spent some time studying the problem and then a great deal of money, time and energy fixing the new stormwater outlet adjacent to the pool. For a short time we enjoyed the new surface and marvelled at the eco tiles attached to the side of the new structure. Residents asked if the structure had been altered in any way to cope with the power of the surging waves during a combined high tide, East Coast Low and wet weather event. Yes, a vent had been installed along the new concrete platform. But what if it is underwater with the tide surging over it and it's raining heavily? The result is shown in the photo below, taken shortly after the flooding of Manly.



The Same Mistakes at Spring Cove

Over in Spring Cove at the boundary of the National Park and St Patricks Estate the heritage wall that meets the concrete fence at the bottom corner of the estate has again been pushed over by the stormwater rushing down the hill towards Spring Cove.

The heritage wall was rebuilt after the last serious wet weather event 'like for like' but only a 1mx1m grate was inserted in the concrete fence. No other mitigation measures. However, because the grate became blocked with sticks and leaf litter and had no weep holes at the bottom of the concrete wall it acted as a dam wall as the volume and strength of the stormwater flow eventually forcing the weaker heritage stone wall to collapse again. Residents discussed that this may be a problem even before the Estate was developed. Next time perhaps lower or remove the concrete wall and if a wall must be installed, perhaps one that allows water to flow through it and over the footpath might save another heritage wall rebuild.



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