

MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM

A community-led monthly newsletter for Manly residents

April 2022

Federal Election Candidates Q&A

Thanks to Manly Yacht Club for welcoming the Forum back to in person meetings. Despite no food or drink we had a huge crowd and a lively meeting in March. Local State MP James Griffin, now also Minister for Environment and Heritage, gave an update on his work. The Manly Ward Councillors, Deputy Mayor Candy Bingham and Cr Georgia Ryburn also attended, to talk about the start to a new term on Northern Beaches Council.

Thanks to the committee and members of the iconic Manly Yacht Club who support a wide range of community services and provide opportunities for our youth and for the not-so-young, through sailing and the highly acclaimed Disability Sailing program. As well they provide this wonderful facility for our essential community gatherings. The Yacht Club has supported our Community Forum for more than two decades and for this we are most grateful. The usual date for the monthly meeting is the third Monday evening of each month, however, this month that falls on Easter Monday so we have moved the meeting to Tuesday 19 April.

NOTE the change of date to:

TUESDAY 19 APRIL 6.45 FOR 7PM START.

We will conduct a Federal Election Forum and Q&A with the major candidates for next month's federal election for the seat of Warringah. That includes sitting MP Independent Zali Steggall (pictured), Liberal candidate Katherine Deves (pictured) and Greens candidate Kristyn Glanville. Labor and other candidates have also been invited. Each candidate will be allocated 5 minutes to introduce themselves, followed by questions from the floor.

Many issues we face in Manly have implications at a federal level. This will be an important meeting and we hope you can attend. There is only room for residents from Manly Ward.



AGENDA

- Q&A session with candidates for Federal Election in May
- Responses from Council to Action Items in March minutes
- Communications tower in old Manly Hospital site still there
- Truck traffic & speed limits on Darley Rd
- Update on North Head National Parks Works
- Stormwater situation at Bower Lane/Cabbage Tree Bay
- Police and Ranger patrols in the CBD at night
- Clean Up Manly. Future plans following our March cancellation

Manly Place Plan Draft Vision

"Sydney's premier seaside destination, embracing a healthy and welcoming day and night economy, iconic natural features and vibrant public spaces."

The Manly Place plan working group met again last month and has one more meeting to go before the consultants provide their report and recommendations to Council.

The vision has been reviewed but so far these meetings have focussed on what Manly should look like in the future. Issues include whether or not to have outdoor dining in the Corso, activating laneways, locations for live entertainment, pop up venues, waste management, options for improving The Corso both at Manly Wharf and the ocean beachfront, and options for the former Town Hall, as well as information gathering from the local members who represent a variety of interests. So far the consultants seem enthusiastic about the input from the participants.

The final meeting will be in late April when the consultants will present the outcome of their Night-time Economy study and a summary of all the information they have gathered from us and various other sources, including past studies and council staff.

OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY 19 APRIL AT 7PM AT MANLY YACHT CLUB

Public Art in Manly Ward

Marine Parade, Manly to Shelly Beach is not included in the Coast Walk Public Art Strategic plan but hosts the 'sculptural walk' with the small sculptures embedded in the rocks along the path with the braille interpretations and the Oceanides sculpture on the edge of the Fairy Bower pool which was recently restored thanks to financial donations from the community. It is one of the most photographed and iconic sculptures in Manly and features on much of the Northern Beaches marketing material.

Perhaps not official, but sculptural in effect, are the two remaining tinnies at Shelly that mark the end of Marine Parade. These much loved tinnies have been fiercely protected from removal by locals and visitors alike over the years. It would cost approximately \$150,000 to recreate these as a permanent sculptural feature. These boats are remnants of the fishing history of the Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve before it was declared as a 'no take' reserve 20 years ago.

Last month Council voted to create the Public Art Selection Panel to provide independent expert advice to Northern Beaches Council on the procurement of permanent public art for the Northern Beaches, as required by Council's Public Art Policy, with a value of over \$250,000. The principal objective of the Panel is to assist Council in implementing the vision and goals of the Arts and Creativity Strategy, the Coast Walk Public Art Strategic Plan and other public art projects initiated by Council. The Panel will provide advice on the selection of artists for site-specific permanent public art projects in accordance with the Coast Walk Public Art Strategic Plan and its curatorial framework.

The Northern Beaches Coast Walk Art projects have been proposed for several locations from Manly to Palm Beach and will provide the Coastal Walk with a balance of artistic expressions that reflect the four curatorial themes: Aboriginal Heritage; Landscape and Seascape; History and Culture and Journeys and Connections. There are twenty-one projects proposed in two stages for delivery. One project in each stage is proposed for Manly, the beachfront at the east end of the Corso and in Stage 2 at the Manly Surf Club. Both these sites are problematic given that there is already a significant sculpture on the east end of the Corso and the Manly Surf club area is a crowded pinch point with a building, showers, pine trees, bike racks, surf craft as well as the entrances to the beach, steps to the eastern hill and the path to Shelly.

Public Art (cont)

Should the Council consider adding the Shelly to Manly walk to its Coastal Walk Art project and perhaps move one of the Manly locations to Shelly?

Let us know your thoughts at secretary@manlycommunityforum.com



PEP 11 Finally Stopped

The Petroleum Exploration Permit 11 (PEP 11) has been suspended. Finally, a ban on seismic testing off Manly is guaranteed!

Northern Beaches and Central Coast communities celebrated the announcement by Keith Pitt, Member for Hinkler in QLD (nowhere near Manly!) the LNP Minister for Resources, of the final suspension of PEP 11 off the coast from North Head to Newcastle. Believe it or not, this licence would have seen seismic testing and drilling within 3km from our beaches.

Since 2018 the Surfrider Foundation, Save our Coast/Stop Seismic Testing, Living Ocean and hundreds of locals have been working hard to stop PEP 11, and it is now confirmed "dead" by the National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator (NOPTA). Yesterday the final nail in PEP 11's coffin was hammered in. NOPTA's glorious "Not approved" notification was released. The fight to protect our coast from offshore mining is over.



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Rain & More Rain. Stormwater Everywhere

The ground is saturated and the rain is continuing as stormwater streams off the Eastern Hill overwhelming the ancient stormwater pipe system and running into the harbour and the ocean.

A few years ago the Catholic Church made changes to its stormwater management by installing agricultural drains when it put in the stairs from ICMS to Bower St and, more recently, the ramp to the open space area near Bear Cottage. But these changes have had unintended consequences downstream, directing more water into the old stormwater system that exits at Bower Lane next to the ocean pool, as well as flowing down Bower Lane to be blocked by the concrete wall from entering Cabbage Tree Bay. Stormwater flows, combined with a high tide and the East Coast Low swell, cause the water pressure to back up and recently forced the slabs on the path to burst open. Safety fencing pictured below.



Council did unblock the drain at the top of the Shelly Beach car park and this has resolved the fast overflows down the stone stairs and road to Shelly, but not before the water eroded and underscored the slip road to the Boathouse (pictured).

Rain & More Rain (cont)



The water main that burst in Marine Parade was the 15th one this past year. This time it meant that residents on the Bower side had no water for 24 hours. Sydney Water is responsible for the pipes and Council for the pathway, which is now a disgraceful patchwork of asphalt, concrete and stone. How long before Sydney Water fixes the problem that causes the pipe to burst on a regular basis, and Council resurfaces the entire pathway to fix trip hazards?

Marine Parade - Manly to Shelly Update

After our last meeting Council staff agreed to walk along Marine Pde and discuss improvement opportunities. Yet another signage audit was promised, this time to remove graffitied signs and empty interpretive sign frames. As well, consideration will be given to improving the landscaping in the area. The future of our cream post and rail fences (pictured) is a concern as maintenance costs increase. The easy solution for Council would be to replace this photogenic fencing with stainless steel fences. And it won't be just along our beach walkways; there are many kilometres of cream post and rail fences in Manly Ward at risk of disappearing. We need a commitment from Council that this won't happen by stealth as the fences need maintenance.



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

The Future of Our Little Penguins is Critical

Our little penguins make up the only mainland penguin colony in NSW and they are now below critical numbers needed for survival.

The colony has not recovered from the devastating fox predation in 2015 when we lost 28 penguins in a matter of days. Residents around Little Manly Cove despair as there has been very little penguin activity this breeding season. The breeding season for 2022 has just finished, but sadly there were very few penguins added to our local colony.

The little penguin colony in Manly is the last remaining mainland colony on the NSW coastline and is now critically low in numbers, down from 78 breeding pairs to 28. Without concerted efforts and further protection, the colony will become unviable and disappear, despite the best efforts of the local Penguin Wardens, supported by Council and National Parks and Wildlife. Problems include predation on the beaches, habitat loss due to developments excavating the foreshore, increased number of seals and pollution in the harbour, as well as the recent rain and resulting stormwater flows saturating and, in some cases, flooding their nests.

Council has installed some new signs along East and West Esplanades. Please take note, as we would love to see more of our little penguins out and about. Actions residents can take include keeping cats inside at night, and keeping dogs away from penguin habitat.



Brickbats & Bouquets

- **Bouquet** to the former Manly Environment Centre, Dept of Fisheries, Manly Dive Centre and the Friends of Cabbage Tree Bay as Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve celebrates 20 years this month. Thanks to everyone who fought to establish and preserve it as a 'No Take' sanctuary. The number and variety of marine creatures have increased as has the bay's popularity. We would love to see boats banned but, in the meantime, we celebrate our amazing marine environment.
- **Brickbat** to the Council for continuing to delay meetings of the Community Safety Committee. There are many pressing issues on the agenda for this important committee, which includes Police, Council Rangers and pub and community representatives. This Forum is interested in the implementation of the Community Safety strategy, as well as other specific issues such as late night under-age drinking in our public parks.
- **Brickbat.** The Sydney Water North Head Waste Water Treatment Plant Community Reference Group may be disbanded after the final meeting is held in June. It would be a big loss as the quarterly meetings have permitted valuable two way communications between the Manly community and Sydney Water. Agenda items have included truck movements on Darley Rd, complaints about odours from the Treatment Plant and works by Sydney Water to reduce those odours. Broader issues included the sewer and stormwater system along Marine Parade and in other locations. The meetings have achieved a great deal.
- **Bouquet** to the Council for their regular email newsletter. It includes details on projects underway and the opportunity for residents to comment through the "Your Say" page. Please take this opportunity and comment before the closing dates. Leaving it until the workmen start digging is too late.

WHARF BAR



www.wharfbar.com.au

Manly Wharf East Esplanade

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