

JULY 2020

# MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM

A community-led monthly newsletter for Manly residents.

## Manly Wharf Update

The public 'gateway' to Manly is a mess. The toilets are hidden away in the basement - they're dingy, often dirty and sometimes unsafe. There are no facilities at ground level. There are too many retail outlets meaning ferry passengers are squeezed into a small, messy central area, while the approaches on either side are equally cluttered. There has also been a big increase in licensed restaurants onsite with no extra parking or facilities provided. Despite years of complaints, nothing seems to change. The wharf is owned by the State Government (RMS), and leased to private company TMG Development, neither of which have shown much interest in community consultation. Now there's an attempt to bring all the stakeholders to the table. Manly Ward Councillor Candy Bingham is working to form a site steering group, including representation from Manly State MP James Griffin, TMG and Northern Beaches Council. The Forum strongly supports such a group but, given the importance of the wharf to Manly and the entire state, believes it should be directed by MP James Griffin.

The group needs the backing of the State Government and Council, as well as high-level participation from TMG, participation by Manly Ward Councillors, and Manly Business Chamber and strong community representation are also required.



## Bower St Fairy Bower Parking

Over the summer of 2019/20 Council trialled part-time weekend No Parking restrictions on Bower St, Manly. Council has just commenced some community engagement seeking feedback with regards to the trial via Council's Your Say page.

Please use the link below if you have any feedback on the restrictions: <https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/bower-street-manly-summer-parking-restrictions>. Submissions close on Sunday 19th July so get your concerns or support in immediately.

## Notes from the Chairman

As covered throughout this newsletter we have much to be thankful for this month as well as issues to be very concerned about. The rebuild of our harbour pools are well underway; works and other planning is also well underway for improvement to our stormwater systems; Sydney Water is finally coming to the party with planned works to remove the last remnants of untreated sewage dumping; and we have some action on traffic management.

However, as you are well aware COVID-19 is not under control and we must be extremely mindful of the risk associated with a lack of social distancing. The loose arrangements at East (and West) Esplanade Park, Shelly Beach and Little Manly Point Park suggest that Council and the police must tighten policing of current laws or we will become the epicentre of a NSW outbreak. This month's meeting will include a Council presentation on works in and around Manly CBD and Corso.

## Manly Library Renovation

As COVID-19 restrictions are eased and we begin to return to our public institution and community services, many were surprised to see that Council had taken the opportunity to completely renovate the Manly Library. Gone is the children's reading and activity pit to the far corner; it's now a completely open space on an entirely level floor; children's activities have been banished to the 'meeting room'. The library will let us know when restrictions are lifted and storytelling resumes.

NEXT MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM ZOOM MEETING IS MONDAY 20TH JULY 2020 AT 4:30PM.  
TO TAKE PART EMAIL [KANDYTAGG@GMAIL.COM](mailto:kandytagg@gmail.com)

## Upgrades Ahoy at Little Manly Pt

The nautical-themed Little Manly Point playground has been earmarked for upgrade, with opinions now sought on what does and doesn't work at the peaceful play area. It is understood that funds will be committed for a playground redesign in the 2021/22 budget and construction flagged for the following financial year.

Playground design can be a surprisingly divisive topic and we expect opinions to range from 'it just needs a lick of paint' to 'sink the ship and build anew!' One thing every parent and grandparent seems to agree on is the need for amenities closer by. In the interim, local Ward Councillor Candy Bingham has revealed plans to have a picnic table installed nearby to create a more pleasant space for family gatherings closer to the play equipment.

A survey has been sent out via our Facebook page or feedback can be sent to the Forum by emailing [secretary@manlycommunityforum.com](mailto:secretary@manlycommunityforum.com). Frequent visitors may also find us seeking opinions at the playground in person when the seas are calm.

## Manly Life Saving Club Upgrade

At last month's Council meeting the following was decided:

1. Having considered the information and evidence contained in the project proposal, continue to support the project to provide a new life saving club building at Manly.
2. Reserve a sum of \$5m from future budgets for the delivery of this project from within the existing 'Surf Life Saving Major Renewals Fund'.
3. Approval to proceed to the design stage of the project as proposed. We assume that with the funds raised by the club, the money allocated by Council and the expected funding from the NSW Government, we will finally have an early start on the works required.

## East Esplanade Park Upgrade

The final stage of the East Esplanade Park upgrade is taking some time to complete. Meanwhile the Forum has several concerns.

1. The Council made the park alcohol free at the start of the pandemic to discourage big groups who drink and disregard social distancing. However, the 'no alcohol' rules are being ignored with crowds still gathering, particularly on Fridays and Saturdays. A lack of policing and difficulties getting into licensed premises have made it worse. And Council rangers only start patrols at 5:30pm, which is too late. The Council and police urgently need to step up and control this area, especially as we are now under threat of another Coronavirus wave. The long-term status of the park – totally alcohol-free or restricted hours - should be addressed too.

2. The toilet problem is back. There are now no public toilets in the park area while the new amenities block is being built. The Council set up portable toilets earlier this year, but these have been removed. To make matters worse, the downstairs toilets in the Wharf area were closed for most of May and June. They have since reopened, but are hard to find and not very clean. People's gardens are being used again instead.

3. Work on the new amenities block is slow. There have been difficulties building piers, cutting in new sewage and power lines and working around the tree roots of the large heritage fig. Work on the sandstone garden flagging and seating areas looks good, but we would like more than one table to be installed.

Regular progress updates are needed, and assurance that the new toilet block will be ready for summer.



### HPL LAW GROUP HAS MOVED TO MANLY

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## Finally! Toilet Block Coming to Little Manly Pt Manly Lodge Victoria Pde DA 167/2015

The long awaited toilet block at Little Manly Point is one step closer after Northern Beaches Council approved funds for the work. Although building will not start until next financial year (2021/22), it's a big win for the Manly community, and something the Forum has been calling for for years. Little Manly Point is a popular spot, which is loved by picnickers, fishermen and young people in the evenings. There is also a children's playground, that is in line for a revamp. At the moment the nearest toilets are the small block at Little Manly beach. Volunteers at the Point on Clean Up Australia Day found out the hard way that some lazy people do not bother to walk to the toilet block, but do it in the bush instead.

The Council has now allocated \$500,000 for work to be carried out in the 2021/22 financial year. Little Manly Point public amenities had initially been left off the budget plans, but after this Forum identified a suitable sewage link position in Stuart St and with Councillor Bingham's support by arranging re-allocation of budget funds, it looks like we are underway.

### Proposed COVID-19 Memorial

There was a proposal supported by a slim majority of NBC Councillors that has created a huge public outcry. After much debate and rescission motions Council has finally agreed to drop the idea, but continue with the plan for artwork to be commissioned along the Palm Beach to Manly walkway. A summary of the discussions is on our website.

From reading the discussions at Council it is clear that more effort is required to fund the current proposal. It is hoped that any further decisions made by Councillors will not become a strain on budgets and future rates.

The Manly Lodge site has a long-standing development approval (DA 167/2015) for a three-story development comprising 36 rooms, basement car parking with 22 spaces and landscaping.

A summary of the new proposal is available on our website. The main concerns are that the new proposal is clearly a substantial increase in build with many additional rooms and a substantial shortfall in off-street parking. Many submissions have been forwarded to Council, mostly objections to the development as submitted. We await the Council planner's response and further communication on whether there is conditional support for the development and just what those conditions may be.

### Little Manly Beach 'Kiosk' Update

Is anyone fighting for what the residents want at Little Manly Beach? We loved our casual kiosk open at regular daily hours serving great coffee, snacks and light meals.

The Council got it wrong when they opened discussions for a new lease and allowed the opportunity for a bigger enterprise. Manly Ward Councillors have been briefed on a Development Application proposal that expands fixed seating and umbrellas with waiter station and restricted access to public toilets. This is what we feared would happen.

How long before expanded closing hours and alcohol licenses? No adverse comments were known to have been provided by the Manly Ward Councillors.

Don't they understand what the community wants? It's up to the public to respond to Council; we can only do so much.

### We Are Here To Help You

In these challenging times we know that there are people in Manly who may find it difficult to get to the shops or the chemist due to Covid 19.

We would like to offer our help as a team over the following months to assist those vulnerable residents including seniors, people with a disability and those with compromised immunity or who are required to self isolate.

If you are not able to leave your home, please contact us.

**Jake Rowe - Principal**  
**Sales & Property Management**  
**9977 1111 or 0414 612 546.**  
**Shop 1, 22 Darley Road, Manly 2095**



## Concerns for Cabbage Tree Bay addressed

We have an assurance from Council staff that action on repairing and upgrading the stormwater outlet and pavement at the pool will be taken in 2021. After more than a year's delay this is welcome news. Even better news is that the sewer line in the area of Fairy Bower running outside the the low seawall along Marine Parade is finally to receive the attention by Sydney Water promised in 2005. Under consideration is widening the walkway at the very narrow point down the slope near the boathouse possibly by strengthening or rebuilding the crumbling seawall and cracked sewer casement that threatens to pollute Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve. This together with Council plans to increase the local stormwater capacity will help to renew the beach sand lost over the past 50 years. This issue has had support from Council but there have been delays in budget allocation from Sydney Water. It does appear that this is finally being addressed, but we will maintain our watch and ask our local and State politicians to actively progress this long-delayed project.

## Fliteboards in Cabbage Tree Bay

A submission has been made to the Council and the State Government about the need for greater control measures for the new recreation of fliteboarding. Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve was established 2002 and since that time has seen marine life flourish as has its appeal to swimmers, snorkellers and divers. The Reserve became a hive of activity towards the end of summer, and more recently as COVID-19 restrictions have given the population more leisure time. Hundreds of swimmers are traversing the bay each day for exercise and many more are snorkelling, diving and paddle boarding. These activities are totally incompatible with fliteboards which made an unwelcome appearance in late summer and continue to operate on most days. They are an accident waiting to happen. We will keep you posted on developments.

## Little Manly Harbour Tidal Pool Rebuild

The Little Manly tidal pool rebuild is slightly behind the Forty Baskets one. Little Manly has been much more affected by the southerly swells that we have encountered periodically over the last couple of weeks. Where Forty Baskets was slightly sheltered, Little Manly has been much more exposed. This has affected the ability of the barge to remain steady; unplanned movement of the barge could damage sensitive seagrasses and presents safety issues for the contractors. Despite this the piling at both Little Manly and Forty Baskets is expected to be completed this week. Good news. The rebuild is back on track and all pylons have been installed and the whalers (walkway top) will soon be completed.

## Sydney Water & Sewage Treatment Plants

Finally, after years of the Forum raising concerns about the dumping of raw sewage off the cliffs at Diamond Bay and Vacluse, Sydney Water have developed a project to collect and pipeline all sewage from these suburbs to the Malabar Treatment Plant. It is still early days, but we will monitor and keep you advised. There is no doubt that in certain weather conditions this sewage washes into Sydney Harbour. In fact, it is confirmed in Sydney Water public documents. Full details on the Forum website.

## Short Bits

### Corso/CBD

Place Coordinators are working with developers and property owners to improve access around development sites, such as St Matthews. Council staff will provide more details at our July online Forum meeting.

### Manly Place Plan

The Corso is a strip that caters for tourists. Council is looking at a refurbishment of the whole CBD area. Council staff will provide more details at our July online Forum meeting.

### 'Broken' East Esp Memorial

Residents regularly report this 'damaged' memorial fountain to Council, but it is not damaged, the broken obelisk represents a broken life and heart for the loss of their loved one. Once a working fountain it has moved progressively along East Esp from its original position on the Wharf forecourt to its current position at the end of the esplanade.

### Manly Resident Parking Permit Update

Some Manly residents, including those at Fairy Bower, Tower Hill and down on the flat (Isthmus) will note their parking permits are expiring soon. The Council has confirmed that expired permits do NOT require renewal while they iron out the new parking scheme. This means it is important that residents continue to display their expired permits until advised otherwise.

### Central Manly 30km/h Speed Limit

Manly 'safe speed zone', which started this month, is a trial paid for by the State Government. It's prompted by the increase in pedestrians and cyclists on local streets caused by COVID-19. While efforts to make Manly a safer, more pedestrian and bike-friendly place are welcome, community consultation is always necessary. This has not yet happened.



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MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM  
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KNOW SOMETHING WE DON'T?  
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