

# MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM

A community-led monthly newsletter for Manly residents

April 2024

## E- bike update

Councillors congratulated themselves at their March meeting for the progress being made by the State Government on plans to regulate the use of e-bikes in NSW after their advocacy. Councillors are now calling for the Northern Beaches Council, in consultation with Transport for NSW and the Northern Beaches Police Local Area Command to convene a meeting of key stakeholders to advocate for improved road rules and regulation of e-bikes to help ensure:

- safety of pedestrians on shared pathways and footpaths
- effective compliance and enforcement actions of e-bikes that are modified to remove pedal assist requirements, speed limiting requirements or allowing excessive power in wattage.

They are also calling for the Northern Beaches' NSW Members of Parliament to be directly engaged with the outcomes of Council's e-bike 2023 audit to seek the proper regulation of e-bikes through improved road rules in NSW.

Meanwhile, Council is considering feedback on the proposal for the Curl-Curl Freshwater Connectivity and Streetscape Upgrade, which includes a separated bike lane. Among other things the proposed works includes an on-road two way separated cycleway on the northern side of Bennett Street and eastern side of Oliver Street.

The fact remains, however that the majority of bike lanes and shared paths in Manly, particularly the Darley Rd bike lane and the east west cycle link through Fairlight to Seaforth along Lauderdale Ave are in desperate need of basic maintenance and improvement.



## AGENDA

- Council updates
- Manly CBD
- Sign audits - East Esplanade and Marine Parade
- Marine Parade and Shelly Beach updates

**Next meeting**  
**Monday 15 April 2024**  
**7pm Manly Yacht Club**

## Action on e-bikes.....continued

In November 2023 Transport for NSW published a pamphlet for bikes, e-bikes and e-scooters users reminding them that they, just like other road users, must comply with all the applicable NSW Road Rules:

- Bike riders can ride on the footpath if they are under 16 years of age or if they are 16 years or older and are supervising a child under 16 riding a bike.
- If they are 16 years or older and not supervising a child under 16 years riding a bike, they can't ride on the footpath.
- Bike riders can ride a bike on shared paths. They must keep left and give way to pedestrians on shared paths.
- They must ride in a bicycle lane if it's marked on the road and has bicycle lane signs, unless it's impracticable to do so. Cars may use them for no more than 50 metres to enter or leave the road at a driveway or intersection.
- Bike riders can ride in transit lanes, truck lanes and bus lanes, but not 'tram only' or 'bus only' lanes.
- They can ride in bus lanes. Be aware of other vehicles using the lane, especially when coming up to intersections as all vehicles can travel in a bus lane if they're turning left. When riding in a bus lane, bike riders must follow the main traffic lights. They can't go on the green 'B' bus signal and must wait for the main traffic light green signal.
- Bike riders can't ride in tram only or bus only lanes. These are marked by 'Trams Only' or 'Buses Only' on signs or lane markings.

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON MONDAY 15 APR AT 7PM AT MANLY YACHT CLUB**

## Pedestrian Crossing on Addison Rd



The pedestrian crossing at the top of Stuart St and Addison Rd is almost complete. The local community was consulted about it approximately 10 years ago and most people are happy to see it finally be installed. However some locals are unhappy about the loss of parking spaces. There are claims that approximately 3 spaces have been lost, however the No Stopping sign has now been located in the current position the correct distance from the crossing and the corner.

Elsewhere in Manly, Council has marked the car spaces with white lines to clearly define the car space and now issues fines if vehicles are parked outside these spaces. This has reduced the number of available spaces as they are all now a standard length to accommodate the largest vehicles. If this was implemented on Addison Rd then it would likely result in the loss of a few more car parking spots.

## Parking fines now in the mail not on your car

Councillors debated the recent move to stop placing paper parking tickets on cars when issued. Rangers now record the fine and when their shift is finished return to the office and upload these fines to State Government Services NSW who then post the paper notifications of the fine to the vehicle owner. Whilst several other Councils have been doing this for a few years, there have been so many complaints that the NSW Government has directed Councils reconsider this method and return to placing the fines or notification of a fine on vehicles immediately. However, this is considered a work Health and Safety issue for the Council Rangers who are often abused and threatened during their work so Council has called for a report on the matter, and we await the outcome of that report.

In the meantime watch where you park and don't chance parking contrary to the signs!

## Trouble in Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve

The growing popularity of Cabbage Tree Bay has dramatically increased the number of people in the water, Sadly, the Easter break, with perfect conditions saw an outbreak of hostilities among the those lining up underwater and disturbing the sea creatures by getting too close in an effort to take the perfect insta pic. Dogs swimming in the Bay has also become a lightning rod for conflict among users.

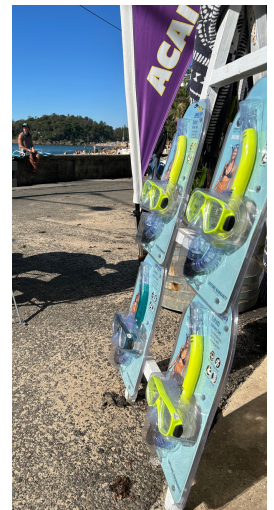
Recently there have been some situations, one involving claims of swimmers assaulting scuba divers underwater because they think they are disturbing the sealife as they are selfishly taking too long to get their happy fish snap. There have been many reports of fish, turtle and cuttlefish harassment, touching, chasing and camera strobes flashing. Setting up that photo shoot means extended time positioning the equipment arounds the animal which limits other people's viewing or photo opportunities.

Sunny weekends mean a highway of people including scuba divers with cameras over the left-hand side of Cabbage Tree Bay, many wanting to get close to the sea life and take a pic. Because the divers are wearing the scuba gear on their backs, they can't see anything above, least of all on the surface where they don't realise that a queue of swimmers or snorkellers has formed to check out and see what they are photographing. The camera, often with strobes, and the proximity to the subject, can trigger annoyance and claims of harassment of the animal.

Meanwhile the swimmers and freedivers who usually descend very fast towards the fish or turtle may equally scare and startle the animal away, ruining it for all: fish and bystanders.

The Bold and Beautiful swimmers, local snorkelers and the dive shops scuba divers account for about 90% of those in the water during the weekends. This can mean hundreds of people in the water, but these regulars are aware of the sensitive environment, as they have a common interest in protecting the turtles and other creatures and appreciate the importance of preserving the seagrass meadows that form the habitat in the Aquatic Reserve. It is the other minority 10% who don't abide by the rules.

Report any illegal activity online to DPI Fisheries  
<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/compliance/report-illegal-activity>



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▶ LEVEL 3, SUITE 21, 22 DARLEY ROAD, MANLY ◆

## Darley Road update

Council has appointed and briefed a Council Transport and Assets team member on the Manly Community Forum Darley Rd Gateway proposal. This Project Manager will now work through the Council's standard project management framework, which includes consulting with the community, to ensure the project brief is correct and the best outcome is achieved.

Since publication of the proposal other stakeholders have reached out to the Forum members and identified other significant issues that need to be addressed. So we look forward to working with everyone to fix the road itself but also how it is used.

Thanks to the Forum sub committee for their work, we now look forward to meeting with the Council and other stakeholders to progress the project.

If you want to know more or join the sub-committee, please email [secretary@manlycommunityforum.com](mailto:secretary@manlycommunityforum.com)



## Position Vacant - Volunteer needed

We are looking for a volunteer to join our team here at the Manly Community Forum. We would love someone to volunteer to help out with the management and distribution of the Manly Community Forum monthly newsletter on the Eastern Hill.

The Manly Community Forum meets monthly on the third Monday of each month and the newsletter is delivered over the weekend before the meeting by a number of local residents.

The newsletters are delivered by the printer on the Friday before the meeting to a nominated address. The 5 boxes of newsletters are then divided into smaller numbers according to the mapped areas for volunteers to deliver to resident's letterboxes. Volunteers collect their allocation from the volunteer distributor. the job takes a few hours once a month.

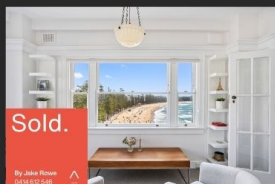
- Receive the 4000 copies of the newsletter from the printer.
- Allocate the newsletters for letterbox deliverers to collect.
- Contact the letterbox delivery volunteers to advise their allocations are ready for collection and delivery.

Drop us a line at [Secretary@manlycommunityforum.com](mailto:Secretary@manlycommunityforum.com) or call the Chair, Cathy Griffin on 0414719513

## Don't fence it, fix it - Marine Pde is a mess



# THE AGENCY



15/129 Bower Street, Manly

2 1

Exclusive freehold beachfront security apartment in 'Borambil', length-of-the-beach views, completely renovated, vast living/dining, sunroom, metres to beach.

**SOLD IN 5 DAYS!**  
**SOLD - \$2,300,000**



3D/1-7 George Street, Manly

3 2 1

Placed within the exclusive and highly-sought after 'Trentham' security building with majestic harbour views from Manly Wharf to Sydney Heads and the Eastern Suburbs.

**SOLD - \$2,770,000**



5/17 Laurence Street, Manly

3 1 2

Just up from Manly Cove, this sumptuous Art Deco apartment with a glistening harbour backdrop and views extending through to Sydney Heads.

**SOLD - \$2,300,000**

Jake has a wealth of knowledge and experience selling properties in the area. He has sold over 500 properties in the local area over the past 20 years. If you are looking for an agent with an exceptional track record, along with honesty and integrity, look no further than Jake Rowe.



**Jake Rowe**  
[jakerowe@theagency.com.au](mailto:jakerowe@theagency.com.au)  
0414 612 546

**Experience sells**

# Vale Doug Carruthers

Manly Community Forum is mourning the passing of Doug Carruthers, a deeply loved member of our community.

Doug passed away peacefully in his sleep at home on 27 March. Our thoughts are with Lee, his partner of 60 years, and her family. Doug and Lee have been the co treasurers for the Little Manly Precinct Forum and the Manly Community Forum since 2010. Doug was always an active member of the Precinct and then the Forum, assisting each month at the meetings behind the 'bar', buying, bringing, and then pouring the wine with a chat and a smile. Without Doug there would have been no newsletters, he managed the printing and coordinated the distribution with the team of volunteers who delivered them each month.

Doug was a regular at Little Manly Beach, a regular paddler on the harbour, and he loved the Little Manly Park, advocating strongly for our public spaces. Over the years Doug and Lee walked the local streets on the Eastern Hill photographing and documenting all our street trees. Notifying council and discussing any issues concerning the trees with the staff. Doug was instrumental in the development of the Eastern Hill Street Tree Plan. This concept was copied by neighbouring precincts and the Plan has now been adopted by Council.

Doug was also involved in the development of the original Precinct Parking Scheme and then more recently worked closely with the Council convincing them to take a more moderate approach to tweak and tighten the scheme rather than make wholesale changes that would have effectively meant an end to the Resident Parking Schemes in Manly.

We will all miss Doug as a friend and neighbour, at our meetings, and on the corner of Stuart and Marshall Street where he would always have a chat while he tended the beautiful garden on the nature strip.



# Brickbats & Bouquets

- **Bouquet** to National Parks and Wildlife Service for the new gate and road shoulder recently installed on the Scenic Drive leading to Fairfax wall at North Head. The local pedestrians are very happy.
- **Brickbat** Pity about the bus stop at the roundabout at the entry to Q Station. It needs some attention, especially now that the 161 bus from Manly to North Head will now stop there every 30 minutes.
- **Bouquet.** to Council for completing the work on the stormwater drain on East Esplanade before the big rain.
- **Brickbat** to the Council removing and not returning the plaque on the plinth at the base of the Pine tree celebrating the former Manly Environment Centre and its works over 25 years.
- **Brickbat** to the NSW Government, councils and other partners for arguing over the funding for the Beachwatch program and thereby threatening continuation of this valuable program. Strong partnerships with Beachwatch, local councils, government agencies and wastewater managers are critical to meet demand for information on safe local swim sites for communities across New South Wales. Partners are required to collect and analyse water samples for priority swim sites in their local area and provide this data for reporting within the Beachwatch program. Participation in the Beachwatch Partnership Program is voluntary, but Beachwatch provides centralised coordination and data management, technical support and guidance with statewide protocols, training, quality control, audit and reporting services. This quality assurance program ensures all data is accurate and reliable with consistent state-wide reporting compliant with the National Health and Medical Research Council guidelines.



LITTLE MANLY, LITTLE STRESS.

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