



# MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM

A community-led monthly newsletter for Manly residents

October 2023

## Draft: My Place Manly

The Manly Place Plan, along with the Night-time Economy study, has been placed on exhibition and will close for comments on the 19 November 2023. Check it out on the Council Your Say webpage. Here are some of the highlights and maybe lowlights of this 150 page tome.

The Place Plan will be implemented through a staged approach, with each action allocated with an indicative time frame for delivery.

The Manly Place Plan recommendations will need a source of funding. (that is there is no funding currently available or planned for the implementation of this plan)

*Manly is the gateway to the Northern Beaches, is a successful international and domestic visitor attractor and is also a strategic centre that caters for a wide variety of commercial uses. There is a particular focus on hospitality and tourism which results in a seasonal economy and variable business conditions. However, the current needs and future demands of Manly's residential population are well catered for with a mix of retail and non-retail uses including supermarkets, hospitality, clothing, household goods, health, education and community services.*

So, the consultants are proposing to update the current vision for Manly which is referred to in Council's adopted strategy documents from "Manly as Sydney's premier seaside destination."

to "Manly is a thriving and welcoming coastal town centre, uniquely positioned between a world-class beach and harbour, with a vibrant local economy, attractive and functional public spaces and rich Aboriginal and European Heritage. A place of stunning natural beauty to live, work, play and holiday!"

My Place: Manly seeks to establish strategies to create a place that is attractive to all who visit, work, live and play in Manly; establishing a sustainable place that is fit for potential future growth. Key to this will be the implementation of the Night-Time Economy Strategy for Manly, providing certainty for all users of Manly centre, be it business owners/operators, visitors, and residents. Trading from 10pm to 6am is proposed in this plan.

The consultants outlined six principles and supported these by a series of objectives that recommend actions to deliver the initiatives proposed by this Place Plan. These principles include providing flexible spaces for a diverse range of activities such as spaces for people to meet and gather, as well as improving and enhancing the public domain to make spaces safer and more enjoyable to spend time. The consultants then divided the 'area of study' into seven 'key places', The Corso, Sydney Road or Manly's dining room, Market Place, Rialto Lane and Square, Henrietta Lane, Short St Plaza and Pittwater Road neighbourhood. Each was then described in detail and including each of the six principles with objectives as well as concept designs and actions.

## AGENDA

16 Oct 2023,  
7pm @ Manly Yacht Club

- Eastern Hill traffic update
- Council updates

## Save the Date

Manly Community Forum Christmas party  
18 December 7pm @ Manly Yacht Club

We all know the Corso is Manly's iconic high street, connecting the cove and the world-famous Manly Beach. But one recommendation, among the others about planting new trees for shade and reintroducing outdoor dining, is to Investigate the opportunities for a new structure and gathering point at the east end of The Corso (the beachfront) providing a much-needed all-weather outdoor performance space, as well as introducing a new multi-purpose performance and gathering space by providing an architecturally-designed structure/building that anchors the north-eastern end of The Corso.

### Plan for the Pittwater Road Neighbourhood

Deep in the draft proposal on page 116 starts the plan for the Pittwater Road Neighbourhood. This includes five concept design ideas outlined from page 118 of the 136 page document.

1. Build out kerbs at key points along Pittwater Road including existing intersections to improve pedestrian safety by shortening the distances pedestrians are required to cross the street. Provide new trees on new kerbouts where suitable to provide shade for pedestrians and outdoor dining. Ensure that kerb build-outs do not impede turning paths of existing bus routes.
2. Trial parklets in front of existing cafes and restaurants to provide additional space for outdoor dining, with the view of widening the footpaths if parklets are successful.
3. Investigate feasibility of a new signalised intersection at Carlton Street to provide a safe means for pedestrians to cross before the next signalised intersection up north at Pine Street (220m away).
4. Relocate bus stops where required to suit new kerb build-outs at the Raglan Street intersection and potential new signalised intersection at Carlton Street.
5. Explore opportunities for rain gardens as stormwater quality improvement devices.

OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON MONDAY 16 OCT AT 7PM AT MANLY YACHT CLUB

# North Head Sanctuary Masterplan

Also, out for community comment is the reworked masterplan for the North Head Sanctuary.

The North Head Sanctuary is the large area surrounded by Sydney Harbour National Park. Imagine North Head as a donut. The outside, or donut, is part of the Sydney Harbour National Park, managed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. The inside of the donut, the hole, is the Former School of Artillery, now known as the North Head Sanctuary, managed and funded by the Federal Government's Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (SHFT).

The Masterplan currently on exhibition covers only 21.1ha of the 73.8ha SHFT site. This 21h comprises the areas within North Head Sanctuary identified as having the most potential for future planned activities. The vegetation within this 21.1ha consists of remnant vegetation, historical landscaping, native and exotic garden beds, and open lawn areas and former military buildings..

The area covered by this masterplan approximates the central north/south spine, with the entry to the site along Scenic Drive just past the Parkhill archway and includes the former military barracks buildings, the orange Parade Ground and immediate surrounds, and the road to North Fort where the tunnel entries are located near the Defence of Sydney Monument and memorial walk. It also includes the carpark and café and easy access to the National Parks Fairfax lookouts through the heritage stone wall.

We have been waiting a long time for this. The Harbour Trust Act took effect in September 2001. Then in 2007, the Coalition Government, with bipartisan support, passed the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust Amendment Bill 2007 which extended the life of the Trust from 2011 to 2033.

On 18 June 2020, the Minister released The Review of the SHFT which made 21 recommendations including the need for additional funding from the Federal Government to continue with the rehabilitation of sites managed by the Trust, particularly Cockatoo Island and North Head Sanctuary. So here we are in 2023 with the SHFT in the process of completing masterplans for Middle Head, Cockatoo Island and North Head Sanctuary.

In the 2020–21 Budget, the Federal Government made \$40.6 million available to the Harbour Trust to enable it to address critical repairs and maintenance over the next four years. This is in addition to the Government releasing \$9 million which was being held in the Harbour Trust's accounts following the sale of eight houses at Markham Close, Mosman.

The Trust also reviewed some of their own internal processes, such as their Leasing policy, which was arcane to say the least. Many in the community considered this to be a significant barrier to the success and viability of the various sites, particularly on North Head.

The masterplan currently on public exhibition suggests future uses of the rapidly deteriorating buildings. However, given that the SHFT has had nearly 20 years to maintain, revitalise and repurpose the buildings on North Head and this is the second attempt at the most recent masterplan, there is a degree of cynicism and consultation fatigue within the community.

The draft master plan for North Head Sanctuary seeks to 'blur' the boundary of land management between the SHFT and NPWS, seeing the headland as a singular entity and visitor experience. This would include, among other things, immersive storytelling through carefully curated signage, interpretive displays, and interactive elements. It would come as no surprise that the number one thing visitors comment on is the lack of appropriate signage leading into the area and once inside along the roads, pathways, tracks and trails. Hopefully this will be addressed early in the next 7 to 10 years.



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

# North Head Masterplan continued

Wayfinding and interpretive signs, making it clearer that the existing north/south road from the Barracks Precinct goes to the North Fort Precinct and the Fairfax walk would not go astray if adopted early on in the planned implementation. Vehicle movements are already limited and the existing road already accommodates walking and cycling which is a key objective of this draft master plan.

It is also worth noting that the SHFT has a Board of 9 members, however 5 positions, including the Chair, remain vacant. This will make decision making on significant expenditure, adoption of the masterplans and even the direction of the Trust challenging until the current Federal Minister for the Environment appoints new Board members.

Following the end of the public consultation on the North Head Sanctuary, the SHFT will review the feedback received and publish a Consultation Outcomes Report before finalising the master plan and submitting it to the Board members of the Trust to consider and approve. This is likely to take place in early 2024.

Once the master plan is approved by Board members, the SHFT will undertake detailed design work, including architecture, engineering, research, interpretation, program development and co-design with First Nations peoples. This will then go out to further public consultation ahead of any work being undertaken across the site.

And it is important to note that this draft masterplan outlines the long-term vision for North Head Sanctuary across the next 7 to 10 years, therefore work is not expected to begin or be completed in the immediate future and is subject to funding availability.



# Little Manly Masterplan

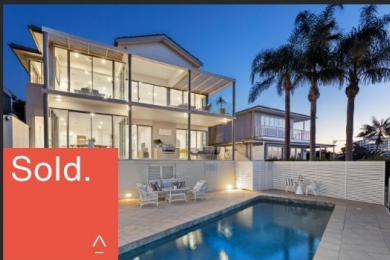
While we are on about masterplans. The Little Manly Masterplan was adopted by Council in 2019 after extensive community consultation.

In early 2024 the lease expires for Number 34 Stuart St, the cottage adjacent to Craig Ave and the dinghy storage area. It will not be renewed and in accordance with the masterplan. The masterplan states *Council to seek expressions of interest/ public tender for community use at 34 Stuart St, at the end of the current lease, and subject to economic feasibility and community benefit. Land use to be restricted to Recreation / Educational Activity.*

Also included in this masterplan is a proposal to *Remodel building design to incorporate outdoor transition area to be utilised by the recreational activity and to provide a connection to the existing open space. And Relocate the existing kayak storage to allow for the above transition area and rationalise use of space and rationalise boat storage area with provision for additional storage, subject to detailed design.*



# THE AGENCY



Sold.

73 Bower Street, Manly

5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 6 car spaces, 1 pool

Modern beachside home with postcard-perfect panoramas

Sold prior to Auction



1a/1-7 George Street, Manly

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 car space, 1 pool

Prestige harbourside haven, sunny aspect and views

Auction Saturday 21st October at 11:30am

73 Bower Street, Manly just sold for an amazing price before auction and we now have a number of buyers looking to secure a house in the Manly area up to \$20M. If you are thinking of selling your home please get in touch with Jake.

Just Listed - This George Street prestige harbourside apartment with a northeast facing terrace and outlooks to the ocean and harbour is just 500m to wharf/eateries.

Jake has sold over 600 properties in the Manly area over the past 20 years and has set numerous suburb records during this time. 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  
0414 612 546

Experience sells

# Zine Fair @ Manly Library



## Brickbats & Bouquets

- **Bouquet** to Night at the Barracks. Amazing program and everyone loved the shuttle buses and little electric vehicles to and from the car parks.
- **Brickbat** to National Parks & Wildlife Service for tying up the Les Sculpture Refuses at the Qstation in a mire of bureaucratic assessments and paperwork causing its cancellation at the last minute. Next year maybe.
- **Bouquet** to Manly Library for hosting the excellent Zine Fair, showcasing the talents of our local young people.
- **Bouquet** to Council workers for their ongoing maintenance of the park benches and tables along East & West Esplanade and the Manly beachfront.
- **Brickbat** to the many who are responsible for the mess that is Darley Rd. The Ausgrid contractor is still endlessly digging. The bike lane up the hill is now a goat track. The pedestrian crossing at Ashburner St can hardly be seen and the surrounding area is a patchwork of bumpy surfaces. The list goes on. Starting from the 1988 heritage roundabout at Victoria St we need a Masterplan for the Darley Road Neighbourhood and entry to the magnificent North Head at Parkhill Archway..
- **Bouquet** Congrats to Mayor Sue Heines, Independent Curl Curl Ward and Deputy Mayor Georgia Ryburn, Liberal Manly Ward, despite the fact that it took the majority of the Council meeting to complete the voting.
- **Bouquet** to Council for their work securing the cliff rocks and clearing the weeds and rubbish from the cliff face along marine Parade. And the new amenities block is coming along and will be finished before the end of the year.

## Landscaping works along Marine Parade



Newsletter edited by Cathy Griffin  
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