

Manly Council Environment Levy Report

A thriving community enhanced by heritage and lifestyle: Number 13 : October 2006



Little Manly: image by Jane Murray

Mayor's Report

The last 12 months revealed many examples of why Manly Council deserves its reputation as a leader on environmental initiatives, our achievements being acknowledged by a number of industry awards. Also, in 2005/06 alone we attracted nearly \$1.3 million in grant funding for various environment projects. More recently, we were awarded a further \$1.6 million in grant funding from the NSW State Government's **Water Savings Fund** for a project to divert more than half a million litres of re-cycled, treated effluent daily from the North Head Sewage Treatment Plant to irrigate parks, gardens and playing fields in the Manly Area in a partnership project between Manly Council, Sydney Water, Manly Golf Club and the University of Western Sydney that will prevent wasting 179 million litres of drinking water a year.

The Environment Levy plays a significant role in attracting such recognition as it is a clear and strong indication of just how seriously Council takes its role as an Environmental custodian.

The year ahead promises to be an exciting time as we implement environment programmes that were made possible only by sustained funding from the Environmental Levy supported with such grant funding.

These programmes have been drawn from priority actions identified in Plans of Management, Recovery Plans, Studies and Strategies that have been developed with active community involvement. These projects are listed below.

A new Clontarf/Bantry Bay Estuary Management Plan is also being written and I encourage the community to actively participate in its development.

The **Manly Community Environment Committee** met in August, 2006 to consider the 2005/06 year end financial statements for the Environment Levy.

They report that the funds are being expended in accordance with the stated aims of Council.

I thank the Community Representatives on this Committee for assisting the community to monitor the Environment Levy expenditure.



Dr Peter Macdonald
Mayor

Environment Levy Programme 2006/07

Programme Name	2006/07 **
Biodiversity Programme	
Noxious Weeds Control and Liaison	\$41,000
Restoration of Manly's Bushland Reserves	\$138,000
Burnt Bridge Creek Corridor Restoration Plan Implementation	\$70,000
Water Cycle Management Programme	
Water Cycle Management	\$66,000
Water Cycle Monitoring and Decision Support Tool Development	\$29,000
Seachange III - Integrated Pollution Prevention Program	\$28,467
Sustainable Water Resources Program*	\$36,000
GPT Annual Maintenance Vote	\$40,000
Lagoon Conservation & Remediation Programme	
Manly Lagoon Rehabilitation Works*	\$175,000
Environmental Management for Sustainable Futures	\$43,000
Coastline Management Programme	
Coastal Environmental Projects Officer*	\$56,000
Manly Harbour Coastline Management Plans implementation*	\$30,000
Implementation of Coastal Hazards II*	\$33,333
Education for Sustainability Programme	
Education for Sustainability Strategy Implementation	\$95,000
Ocean Care Day	\$10,000
Seachange for Sustainable Tourism	\$62,000
Waste Education Trailer	\$16,000
Community Awareness of Levy Projects - Newsletters	\$4,200
Heritage Programme	
Comprehensive Heritage Review in Manly LGA	\$20,000
Total	\$993,000

* supported with grant funding ** distribution of 2006/2007 funds

The Environment Levy - working for a sustainable future

Some Current Projects

Thirty Sea Change for Sustainable Tourism projects

Initially funded by the NSW Environmental Trust, *Sea Change for Sustainable Tourism*, the environmental management education program for Manly businesses, is continuing under Levy funding. Currently 31 businesses are participating in this excellent programme, with three businesses having achieved a 3-star accreditation rating by completing an environmental management plan. The Environmental Trust is so impressed by this program they are consulting with Council on ways to make it more widely available. For more information go to: www.manly.nsw.gov.au/seachangetourism

Jellicoe St Mini-wetland

In 2003, Council and the National Parks & Wildlife Service installed a mini-wetland to treat stormwater entering Sydney Harbour National Park from Jellicoe Street. Since then, macrophytes planted have flourished. Recent testing indicated that the wetland is stripping total nitrogen and phosphorus pollutants from stormwater resulting in cleaner water entering our harbour and less weed seed entering the National Park. A second mini wetland at Beatty St is currently under construction.



Manly Council's New Environment Page

2006 has seen the re-launch of the 'Environment' section on Manly Council's web site. The Environment section now features 22 sub-pages of helpful information for Community, school groups and industry to access. Information covers topics such as: our Hill To Harbour Tours, Bushland, Environmental Health, Marine and Coastal, Manly Environment Centre, Manly's Highlights, Ethical Standards, Sustainability Strategy and much more. Please log on and explore at www.manly.nsw.gov.au.

Bushland restoration by fire!

Many native plants are dependent on fire for survival. If fire is excluded for long periods this often results in species reduction and a changed vegetation structure. A section of Wellings Reserve burnt in August 2005 to assist bush regeneration and minimise the threat to private property has seen regeneration thrive following good rainfall. This year an area at Tania Park has been burnt, and a second section of Wellings Reserve has been burned.



Clontarf / Bantry Bay Estuary Management Plan

Council is preparing an Estuary Management Plan (EMP) to address foreshore, estuary and interconnected issues for the area between Castle Rock Beach and Bantry Bay. The EMP will be prepared under the guidance of a Working Group, comprising relevant state government agencies, key stakeholders and community representatives. Visit www.manly.nsw.gov.au or telephone **9976 1662** for information.

Youth Projects in 2006

The World Environment Day Youth Expo was held in June, 2006. Approximately 2,000 primary students from northern beaches schools came along to view environmental exhibits and learn about sustainability options for school and home. The Sustainability Youth Forum was held in August, following local water quality monitoring with high school students, allowing them to present findings covering Manly's and Warringah's waterways. These programmes were delivered in partnership with Warringah Council.



Sewer Fix Programme

A holistic programme monitoring and prioritising areas for sewage leak rectification is rolling out in Manly. Manly Council, Sydney Water and nominated volunteers from Manly Precinct Community Forums will oversee approximately \$45 million spent by Sydney Water around the Manly /Warringah Catchments, aiming for a healthy Manly Lagoon ecosystem.



Seaforth Oval - Gateway to Bantry Bay

Council in partnership with the National Parks & Wildlife Service has improved the Seaforth Oval area and adjoining Timber Getters Track for an easy access down to **Bantry Bay** as part of the State Government's Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Program. The project has included installation of a shelter, seat, interpretive signs and a bike rack as well as major upgrades to the Timber Getters Track which has made significant aesthetic improvements to the area. www.manly.nsw.gov.au/Seaforth-Oval.html