

# Manly Council Community News

## Environment Levy Report



February 2003: Vol 1, # 8 Published by Manly Council PO Box 82 Manly NSW 1655.  
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## 62 Environment Levy projects underway in Manly

WELCOME to our first Environment Levy Newsletter for 2003.

This Newsletter gives a brief overview of just some of the 62 Environment Levy projects currently underway in Manly and outlines plans for future initiatives.

### Hop in and Help launch

DECEMBER 8TH 2002 saw the finalé event for the *Hop in and Help Manly Lagoon* project, which I attended along with The Hon. **Tony Abbott**, Member for Warringah. Guests were taken on a guided tour to all Hop in and Help Manly Lagoon project works including a pollution indicator, water quality monitoring display, senior citizen and play-ground murals, sculptures and bush regeneration works. Contact **Jane Murray**, Catchment Liaison Officer on 9976 1610.

### Industry Awards

Since our last Environment Levy Newsletter, Manly Council has received several important local government and community awards, including a 2002 Local Government & Shires Association of NSW *Excellence in the Environment Award* for our Residential Development Control Plan; the overall prize in the 2002 *Keep Australia Beautiful Metro Pride Awards*; and Highly Commended in the prestigious Sydney Region *Keep Australia Beautiful 'Clean Beach Challenge Awards'*. Council's Manly Environment Centre received two *Streamwatch Awards* for Water Quality Monitoring and Catchment Investigation & Reporting; and Council was awarded a *Cities for Climate Protection Milestone Completion Trophy (Greenhouse)*. Excellent work!

### Green Business Awards

IT WAS MY GREAT PLEASURE to recently present Council's annual Manly Environment Centre **Green Business Awards** which aim to increase environmental awareness and promote best practice pollution prevention.

The 2002 Awards focussed on the Building Industry. Winners were builder **Noel Moss** (Stormwater Management); *Allworks Building's* **Peter Axaam** and **Jeff Rankin** (Waste Management); and builders **Stuart Thor** and **J.R Howel** (Best Environment Practice). Congratulations - and a big thank you from the Manly community.

**Jean Hay AM**  
Mayor of Manly



Excellence award for Manly's Residential Development Control Plan

## Hop in and Help Manly Lagoon

VOLUNTEERS contributed over 4,500 hours of their time supporting the **Hop in and Help Manly Lagoon** project during 2001/2002

Funded and supported by the Natural Heritage Trust, Manly Environment Centre, Manly Council and the tireless volunteers, project achievements included water quality monitoring, bush regeneration (planting of 6000 seedlings), clean ups, drain stenciling, workshops, education, a new website ([www.wildaboutwetlands.org.au](http://www.wildaboutwetlands.org.au)) and tours of the Manly Lagoon catchment, as well as some exciting public art installed at the Lagoon.

Contact **Jane Murray** on 9976 1610. □

## Manly Lagoon Park Update

**R**EGENERATION WORKS along Manly Lagoon foreshore are an excellent example of Council working with the community to improve our environment. **Hop in and Help Manly Lagoon** volunteers are being supported by Council staff with care and maintenance of the newly planted areas in the Lagoon Reserve. The non-chemical eradication of *Hydrocotyle bonariensis* weeds and exotic grasses by pumping saline Lagoon water onto the foreshore allows natives that naturally tolerate the salty conditions, survive and thrive.

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## Snapshots

### ● Starboard Right & Green

*Starboard Right & Green* is an upcoming education program to reduce the negative impact of recreational boat use, marinas and slipways on the marine environment. The program will initially address the managers, staff and clients of Manly's three marinas. It will later expand to include other recreational boat users in Manly. Program planning is under way with involvement from key industry representatives. Environmental assessments of the three marinas in Manly have been undertaken, and action plans to address emergent issues have been formulated to guide the program. □

### ● Manly Lagoon Environment Impact Statement Update

Planning of significant rehabilitation works within Manly Lagoon is well underway.

Works are planned in five sites along the lagoon. Sites 1, 2, 3 & 5 work generally involve the removal of accumulated sediments from the lagoon bed.

Site 4 works involve the construction of a second water-way under Pittwater Road to return Hinkler Park to an island.

The preparation of environmental impact assessment documentation is currently being undertaken for the rehabilitation works, with the assessments for three of the sites anticipated to be on exhibition in March, 2003. □

## Cabbage Tree Bay Update

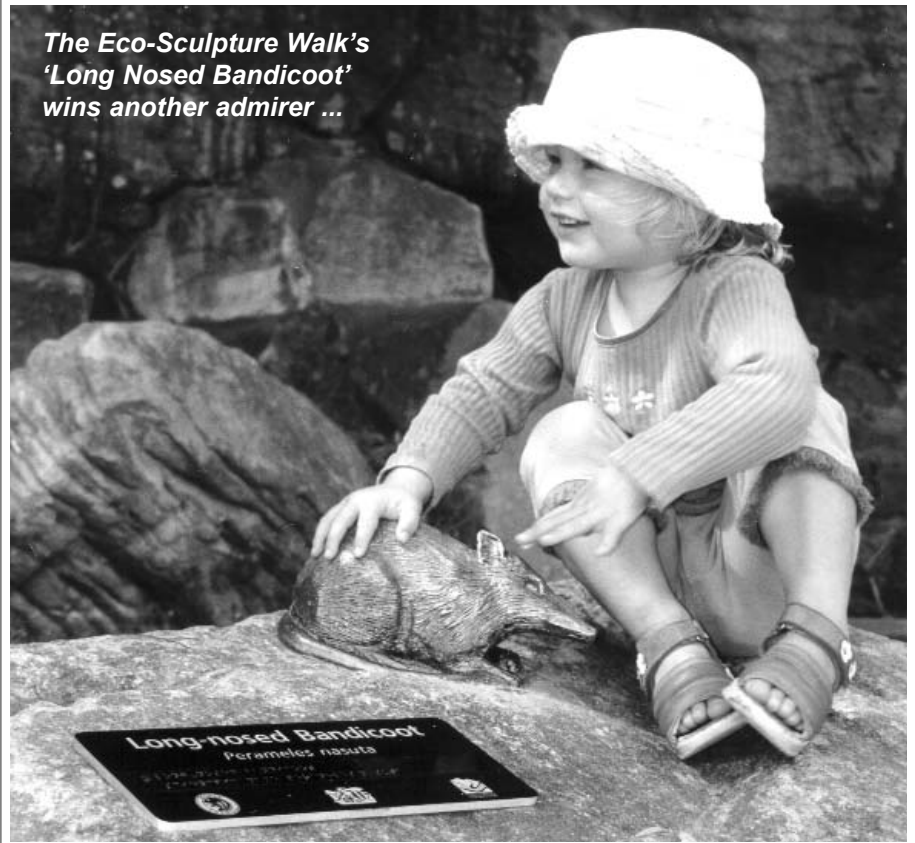
**I**MPLEMENTATION of the Cabbage Tree Bay Management Plan has been accelerated this year with Council undertaking a range of exciting projects, especially focussing on the Cabbage Tree Bay 'No Take' Aquatic Reserve.

With the assistance of additional grants and contributions, the Environment Levy has enabled Council to establish an ongoing monitoring program assessing the effectiveness of the Aquatic Reserve. The Cabbage Tree Bay **Eco-Sculpture Walk** was developed, accompanied by brochures and ongoing guided walks, to raise visitor and community awareness of the Bay's natural and cultural values.

The Levy has also supported the planting of locally endemic Cabbage Tree Palms, the installation of sandstone flagging and a diver corraling platform to curb erosion behind Shelly Beach, and the design of an Aquatic Reserve Brochure, regulation signage and interpretive panels which will be out very soon.

There will be more good news about Cabbage Tree Bay before the year is out! □

*The Eco-Sculpture Walk's  
'Long Nosed Bandicoot'  
wins another admirer ...*



## Manly Lagoon Park Update continued from page 1....

Another addition to the Reserve is eight sandstone sculptures of native fauna along a foreshore 'discovery walk'.

The discovery walk represents the combined efforts of Council, Manly Environment Centre, the Natural Heritage Trust and Manly area schools. □



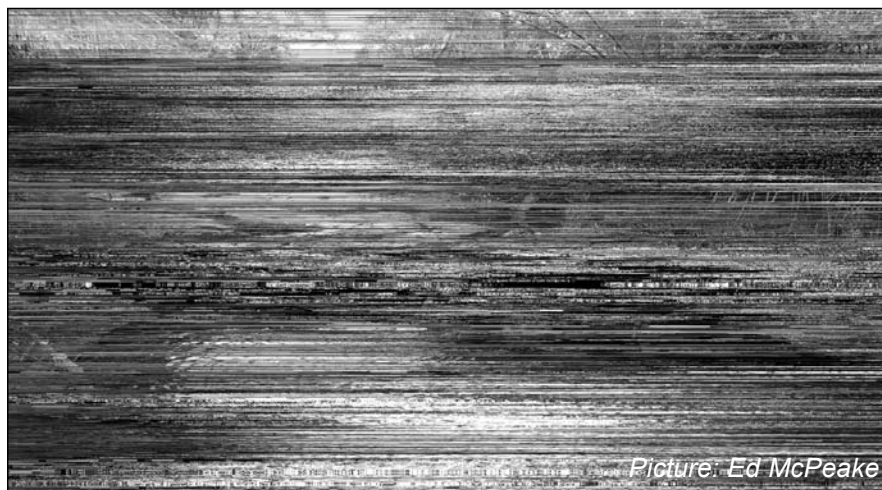
*Sandstone sculptures of local fauna*



## Creek restoration program in 6th year

**T**HE BURNT BRIDGE CREEK restoration program, now in its sixth year is showing dramatic results. The restoration works undertaken by Council's Environmental Levy bush regeneration teams, Bushcare volunteers and contractors are increasing the habitat for our local native fauna. With the vegetation restoration component of the project well under way, future works are planned to address creek bank stabilisation, sedimentation, and water quality issues. Strategies are being developed by a team of staff from Manly Council, the NSW Department of Land & Water Conservation, Balgowlah Golf Course and University of Western Sydney to address these issues.

With the on-going assistance provided by the Environmental Levy, Council will continue to restore this community asset. □



Picture: Ed McPeake

## Snapshots

### ● Sustainability Youth Forum

A Sustainability Youth Forum, facilitated by Manly Environment Centre, Manly Council, Warringah Council, Manly Youth Council and National Parks & Wildlife Service, will be held on Wednesday, 2 April 2003 at the historic Quarantine Station at North Head National Park. More than 140 students from 14 High Schools in Sydney's Manly and Warringah Local Government Areas will take part in the Forum' to think about, discuss, plan and learn new ways of contributing to a sustainable Northern Beaches.

Contact **Jane Murray** or **Dan Garlick** on 9976 2842. □

### ● Water Conservation Program

Council established its Water Conservation Program in 1999, including the installation of water efficient devices in Council public facilities. A target 50 per cent reduction in water consumption by Council before 2005 has been adopted.

The 2001/02 results indicate a **26 per cent reduction** in consumption across all facilities - doubly worthwhile as a substantial portion of the year has seen exceeding dry weather.

Initiatives included;

- the retro-fitting of Council's public amenities with water conservation devices;
- the review and installation of rain sensors and controls for Council parks and play fields; and
- installation of new shower posts with water conservation measures along the harbour front. □

## Reducing water pollution run-off..

**A** NEW WATER CATCHMENT management project being developed jointly by Manly and Warringah Councils in partnership with State Government departments aims to reduce pollution "run off" from large commercial land-holdings adjoining the Manly Lagoon.

Called the **Manly Lagoon Integrated Catchment Strategy and Performance Evaluation Project** (Manly Lagoon ICRM), it draws on the principles of 'Total Catchment and Water Cycle Adaptive Management.'

The aim of the new project is to provide all land managers adjacent to Manly Lagoon with a blueprint for the implementation of their water catchment and water cycle programs and activities to ensure all the land managers are "in the right spot at the right time" to prevent pollution run-off.

### a new 'combined approach'

Council is working with all relevant land managers to develop and implement a co-ordinated approach to managing the Manly Lagoon catchment.

To achieve this outcome a brief has been developed jointly by the Department of Land & Water Conservation; Planning NSW; the NSW Roads & Traffic Authority; NSW Environment Protection Authority; and Warringah and Manly Councils.

The project is to be jointly managed by Manly Council with a project team of state agencies.

A draft strategy is expected to be submitted to Manly Council and Sydney Water Partnership in March 2003. □

# \$420,000 pollution prevention EPA grants!

MANLY COUNCIL has attracted over \$420,000 in EPA Stormwater Trust grants for pollution prevention programs focusing on education; compliance; water quality monitoring; cleansing and maintenance; and integrated management. The programs aim to reduce polluted stormwater run-off from **Balgowlah Industrial Estate** and **The Manly Corso**.

Graph 1 shows the reduction in University of Western Sydney (UWS) monitored pollution levels by more than half from the Balgowlah Industrial Estate (BIE) through the **Great Estate** program after two years' education, compliance work, pollution prevention planning and actions, and improved cleansing and maintenance.

Data taken by **Paul Smith** of the University of Western Sydney (UWS) has shown pollution levels in The Corso area to be surprisingly high.

Manly Council is currently addressing this through the **SEA Change Manly** program using a similar project model to the **Great Estate**. **SEA Change Manly** is targeting food retail businesses in Manly's CBD with a stormwater awareness raising program, and fully supported pollution prevention management planning and follow up.

Support mechanisms include

- a **pollution prevention support line**;

- a **SEA Change** website;

- a **Pollution Prevention resource kit**;

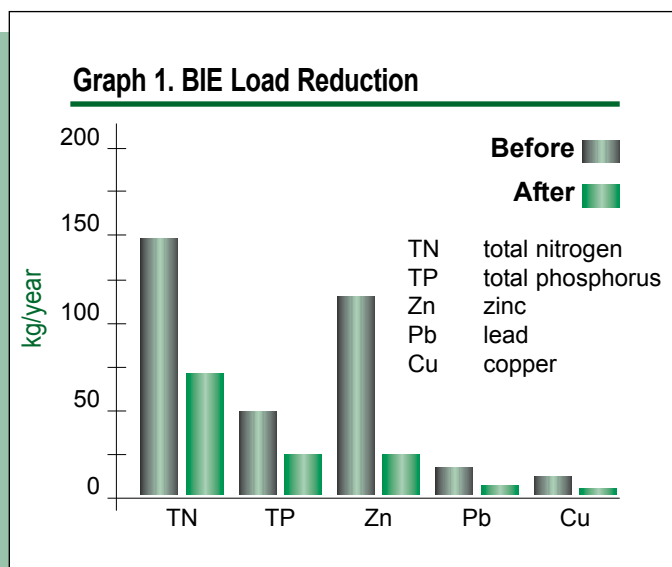
- **Workplace signage**;

- **Employee training**;

- **SEA Change Supporters Program**, and

- **Newsletters**, including

- **Case studies** from local businesses. □



● **The Industrial Estate:** significant improvement

## Snapshots

### ● Noxious weeds

The Manly Noxious Weeds Project has been working to reduce noxious weed numbers on both private and public land.

The focus this summer is **Asthma Weed**, especially around the Manly CBD. Environmentally friendly steam treatment is being used to treat Asthma Weed in the worst affected streets, and property owners are encouraged to remove the weed on their side of the fence.

Information on weed control or identification can be obtained from **Janine Singleton**, Council's Noxious Weeds Community Liaison Officer, on 9976 1620. □

### ● Coastline Management Plans

Council's Environment Levy, assisted by grants from the State Government, has contributed to the development of **Draft Little Manly and Forty Baskets Coastline Management Plans**, which aim to guide the sustainable management of these coastal areas. Community consultation has been ongoing, and relevant studies are underway, including Coastline Hazard Studies, a review of seagrass information, terrestrial environment studies and landscape assessments. These will provide important information on which to base management actions identified in the Plans. Public exhibition of the Plans is scheduled for July 2003. □



## Bricks and Water project expands

**B**RICKS AND WATER is an innovative stormwater pollution prevention education project targeting the building industry. The project aims to prevent stormwater pollution caused by erosion and sediment flow from building construction sites in Manly and involves visiting builders on-site within the first 2-3 weeks of construction work commencing, providing educational material, and helping builders plan their site to minimise stormwater pollution.

To date, over 150 sites have received an education visit, and over 500 education kits have been distributed through building-site visits and other educational measures.

**Bricks & Water** is expanding to include apprentice builders at TAFE, and will include waste management on building sites as part of the education efforts in 2003. Contact **Dan Garlick** on 9976 2842. □