



Manly Council Community News

environment levy report

A thriving community enhanced by heritage and lifestyle

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A message from the Mayor of Manly...

The new Council, elected six months ago, is committed to continuing the fine works that have been undertaken through the programs funded by the **Environment Levy**. This report documents the progress over the last 14 months; it also provides the high level of accountability and transparency which is an essential pre-requisite of the Levy.

The projects undertaken are determined via a community consultation process. Most projects are selected from the priorities of the many environmental Management Plans Council has prepared with the community. The Community Precinct Committees also initiate proposals and they are then considered by the Manly Environment Committee prior to ratification by the Council. If you have suggestions, do contact your Precinct Committee.

The Environment Levy Expenditure Review Committee meets on a quarterly basis to monitor expenditure and ensure that funds are accounted for and used for new works and environmental initiatives.

The Committee has representatives from the Community Precinct Forums and I chair the meeting. This newsletter is their initiative to report the progress of the environmental projects to the community.

The newly appointed Committee met recently to review progress with expenditure. They are pleased to report that significant progress has been made with expenditure expedited to use accumulated funds.

I wish to acknowledge the work of the Environment Levy Committee who are charged with an over-sight role.

It's crucial to the establishment of community trust and I appreciate that.



Dr Peter Macdonald, Mayor

Review	Allocated
• 20004/2005 Levy Injection * (* includes \$30,000 anticipated interest)	\$976,000
• 2004/05 Carry Forward	\$495,617
• Number of programs funded for 2004/05	39
• Total grant funds supporting 2004/05 levy	\$352,358

Volunteers helping rehabilitate Manly Lagoon catchment

Since Council's **Revive the Reeds** project began in July 2003, there has been a productive effort focused on the rehabilitation of the Manly Lagoon Catchment.

The project will continue to see a multitude of works carried out around Manly's catchments focusing primarily on;

- improving water quality,
- bush regeneration and revegetation,
- education and event management programs for the community, schools, business and industry.

Over the course of the first year of the Revive the Reeds project, 1,114 volunteer hours of work in the field have seen the planting of **2,990 native plants** along the Manly Lagoon Catchment.

For further information, or to participate, please contact the **Catchment Liaison Officer** on **9976 2842**. □



The Environment Levy - working for a sustainable future

Snapshots

● Shelly Beach Headland Walking Track Upgrade

The circuit walking track around Shelly Beach Headland has recently been upgraded to address erosion from high public usage and weathering. Upgrade works included the resurfacing of the track with crushed sandstone, and the replacement of damaged steps. □

● Native Plant Give Away

Council's annual native plant give away was held at the Seaforth Community Centre. This year 1,200 plants were distributed ensuring that residential gardens receive a boost in native plant numbers. □

● Little Manly & Forty Baskets Landscape Masterplans

Draft Landscape Masterplans for Little Manly and Forty Baskets have been developed in association with the respective Coastline Management Plans and Community Submissions received during the consultation period are being reviewed and incorporated where appropriate. Once the Landscape Masterplans have been endorsed, Council will commence implementation of the works subject to funding availability. □

● North Harbour Coastline Management Plan

Council is in the initial stages of developing a Coastline Management Plan for North Harbour. Recently completed Coastline Hazard Definition Studies and Ecological Assessments undertaken for the study area will be incorporated into the development of the Plan. Calls for representatives for a community steering committee will be made shortly. □

Cabbage Tree Bay update

Cabbage Tree Bay Marine Surveys

With the designation of Cabbage Tree Bay as a 'No Take' Aquatic Reserve (2002), Council elected to undertake marine surveys to monitor the Bay's recovery over time.

Results from the initial year of surveys are highly encouraging and suggest that the Bay, when compared to controlled locations, has a diversity of habitats, contains high numbers of fish that would otherwise be subjected to harvesting and has a good larval supply of fishes.

Surveys of the Aquatic Reserve will be undertaken in 2005 to ensure a comprehensive dataset for future comparative analysis.

For more information, call the **Coastal Projects Officer** on **9976 1608**. □

'North Head Loop' & Cabbage Tree Bay Landscaping Works

Council received funding assistance from the Department of Environment & Conservation and the Department of Infrastructure, Planning & Natural Resources (under the *Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Program*) for the construction of a '**North Head Loop**' - linking Shelly Beach to Little Manly and implementation of the Cabbage Tree Bay Landscape Master Plan.

The Cabbage Tree Bay landscaping works include the construction of a sandstone pathway across Shelly Beach Reserve, improvements to the pathway junction in front of the kiosk, installation of a low sandstone wall, the installation of interpretive signage and a marine sculpture, and returfing works. Formal construction works have been completed early and a launch event will be held in late October.

For further information, please contact Council's **Environmental Planner** on **9976 1607**.



'Seachange' for industrial pollution hotspots

The **Seachange Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program** has been in operation for over four years with a measured reduction of up to 90 per cent of stormwater pollution from 'hotspot' industrial and commercial catchments. The program draws together automated stormwater monitoring equipment to define and target poor practices and make the most efficient use of Council's engineered devices to ensure the water quality of our waterways is enhanced. *Seachange* has been so successful that Council has transferred the operational model to other prioritised catchments in the local council area like Ivanhoe Park, Totem Shopping Centre and Cemetery Creek catchments. For further information, please call **9976 1519**. □

Community Gardens are *blossoming*

The **Manly Village Community Garden** is progressing extremely well, with an ever increasing variety of food crops being grown.

Recent additions to the garden include three citrus trees, broccoli, and even a passionfruit vine!

Students from **Manly Village Public School** are set to become further involved in the garden by participating in classes on seed propagation, composting, and worm farming.

A recent exciting initiative from Manly Council has seen the formation of a network for community gardens in Manly.

New gardens are to be created within Ivanhoe Park and at Manly West Public School.

Sites have been identified for these new gardens, and planning will take place in the near future to get works underway. For further information, please contact our **Sustainability Education Officer** on 9976 2842. □



Manly Village Community Garden

Snapshots

● Starboard Right & Green!

The recreational boat users education kit for *Starboard Right & Green* is almost complete, and environmental education for recreational boat users will begin soon.

The project will focus on five key issues, namely: Seagrass, *Caulerpa taxifolia*, Pollution, Waste, and Penguins.

Initiatives to reach boat users will include barbecues at Little Manly boat ramp and local marinas, working with relevant Precinct Community Forums, and presentations at various locations around Manly.

Starboard Right & Green will also link closely with the recently approved Coastline Management Plans, and work towards implementing actions identified in these plans.

For information, call our **Sustainability Education Officer** on 9976 2842. □

● Catchment Snapshots

Catchment Snapshots involved seven senior school students from 13 Manly and Warringah Schools determining the health of our local waterways and identifying issues that surround and impact on our catchments. The students will assess Manly, Dee Why, Curl Curl and Narrabeen Lake/Lagoon catchment areas to monitor the quality of our creek health and to discuss the way local environmental issues affect our local communities.



Burnoff sparks new life in reserve

Manly Council was assisted by the NSW Fire Brigade in undertaking an ecological burn at **Bantry Reserve** during June.

Fire was introduced to stimulate the germination of seed in the soil seed bank, assisting the recovery of the vegetation community.

The section of reserve burnt was selected as it contains a highly degraded remnant of the endangered ecological community 'Duffy's Forest'.

Prior to undertaking the burn, Council staff and a Bantry Reserve volunteer **Kate Inwood** conducted an extensive vegetation survey.

Comparing the pre- and post-fire vegetation community will allow Council to gauge the success of the eco-burn. Council will also be undertaking vegetation pile burns within several other bushland reserves to further enhance bush regeneration works. □

Fire was introduced to stimulate the germination of seeds at *Duffy's Forest*



Bantry Reserve burn off

Water Cycle Management in Manly....

In the current extreme water shortage in Sydney, Manly Council is turning to alternative water supplies, such as stormwater and groundwater, to maintain public parks and playing fields and for cleansing operations around the local government area.

Whilst this is necessary to maintain community facilities there are issues to be addressed in making the switch from tap supplies. Therefore Manly Council has partnered with University of Western Sydney, Cooperative Research Centre for Irrigation Futures, private industry, all sectors of government and community groups to establish an integrated understanding of the Water Cycle in Manly.

The program will involve the monitoring of alternative sources of water to ensure the quality is within all relevant guidelines for re-use and ensures the sustainable use of this precious resource, paying considerable attention to any sensitive ecosystems and aquatic recreational uses.

So whenever you see the irrigation system working on the beachfront, use one of Manly's waterless urinals, see our parks staff irrigating some of our native flora or our cleansing team hosing graffiti or cleaning our CBD, you are seeing Manly Council living more sustainably within our own water cycle.

However, Council alone cannot achieve a complete balance with our natural water cycle. Residents and business must also play a role in conserving water, draw upon rainwater more effectively and remember to go slow on the H₂O. For information, contact our **Water Cycle Management Officer** on **9976 1519**. □



Coming Events

● Important Dates

Don't miss these important events. Keep this list handy!

● Community Gardens

Every Monday, 3-5pm at Manly Village Community Garden. **Contact:** the Sustainability Education Officer on 9976 2842.

● Have your say on Manly's State of the Environment

Manly Council is currently preparing its 2003/2004 State of the Environment (SoE) Report and is seeking your input to;

- Review progress in addressing environmental concerns
- Determine what the community considers to be the main environmental priorities in Manly; and
- Identify environment activities to protect and/or enhance our environmental management.

Copies of the survey form are also available by return e-mail, by downloading them from Council's web-site at www.manly.nsw.gov.au, or by calling Council's Environmental Planner on **9976 1607**. Comments are invited until 4.00pm Friday 15 October 2004.

● Cabbage Tree Bay Landscape Improvements Launch Event

September-October
Further details to be announced.

Contact: Coastal Projects Officer, 9976 1608. □



Manly Lagoon Rehabilitation Works

In March 2004, Manly Council was successful in its application for \$240,000 in grant funding under the NSW State Government's **Estuary Management Program** for the 'Removal of Accumulated Sediment from Manly Lagoon'.

The areas from which the removal of sediment will be funded include:

- the footbridge between Passmore and Nolan Reserve extending downstream to T.S. Condamine (Site 1);
- immediately downstream of Burnt Bridge Creek at the end of Riverview Parade and in Burnt Bridge Creek (Site 2); and
- under Pittwater Bridge Road (Site 3).

The grant will be matched by funds from Warringah Council and Manly Council's Environmental Levy. For further information, please contact the **Environmental Planner** on **9976 1607**. □