



MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

HELD 14 JULY 2010

NOTE: All minutes are subject to confirmation at a subsequent Council or Planning and Strategy Committee meeting.

PRESENT:

Councillors

Cllr Cathy Griffin
Cllr Hugh Burns

Manly Council (Chair)
Manly Council (observer)

Other Representatives

Angelika Treichler
Cheryl Rose
Jacqueline French
Keelah Lam
Richard Hewitt
Susan Buchan
Neil Ohlbach
David Thomas
Rachel Miller

Penguin Warden Representative
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
National Parks and Wildlife Representative

Staff Representatives

Judy Reizes
Robynne Millward

Manager, Manly Environment Centre
Project Officer, Manly Environment Centre

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The **Community Environment Committee** met on 14 July 2010, to consider the matters referred to it and now reports having reached the decisions taken and recommendations stated hereunder:

OPEN	The meeting commenced at 6.30pm	
ITEM 1	APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE Julie Taylor-Mills, Terry Metherell, Eira Battaglia and Diana Deeley.	ACTION
ITEM 2	DECLARATION OF INTEREST Nil.	
ITEM 3	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS The chair welcomed Robynne Millward, Project Officer MEC to outline brief concept plan for MEC twentieth anniversary conference next year in March 2011.	

ITEM 4	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES The minutes of the Committee meeting held 14 June 2010 are confirmed. MATTERS ARISING The Minutes of the 9 June 2010 meeting were adopted by Council at the Ordinary Meeting on 19 July 2010.	ACTION
ITEM 5	MANLY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION MARCH 2011 Robynne Millward, MEC Project Officer, outlined the concept of a conference to showcase the unique progress that Manly Council, it's Environment Centre and the community, have made in the past 20 years to promote Manly Council/Manly Environment Centre's successes, a platform for discussion on environmental projects/art/culture and speakers to inspire all.... to showcase Manly and its unique environment. The conference would be combined with the annual Eco Awards. The uniqueness of the Manly Environment Centre's shopfront as the first suburban environment centre is of interest to other environment centres, councils and communities looking to open their own centres. Continued interest in the projects that have been initiated throughout this time is also of prime interest to the community and wider national and international audience. A network of environment centres around Australian, NZ and around the world would be invited to attend. We are at present scoping the conference and exploring many possibilities. March 2011 also marks the passage of the 10 year anniversary of the Commonwealth legislation which created the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust and the consequent North Head Sanctuary. The Harbourtrust have offered to provide premises for the conference and to participate in the program. Recommendation The committee gave their enthusiastic support for this concept and committee members are invited to pass on ideas for speakers to Robynne Millward from the MEC.	
ITEM 6	REPORT – Cabbage Tree Bay and Marine Parade Walkway upgrade The Chair reported the NPWS committee field trip went well and the Plan of Management will be used as a model. Dave Thomas, Cheryl Rose, Jacqueline French and Judy Reizes presented ideas for the proposed Marine Parade Walkway upgrade: The proposed upgrade of Marine Parade walkway should: 1. support awareness of and environmental education about the Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve 2. support conservation and awareness of the natural environment and local flora and fauna species 3. support acknowledgement and awareness of, and education about, local indigenous history, stories, culture and sites of	

significance

4. retain and enhance the existing rustic character and style, ensuring that the aesthetics are in keeping with the surrounding natural beauty.
5. retain and restore the historic features
6. retain and improve accessibility for all members of the community.

For the purposes of this submission Marine Parade is divided into three distinct areas as follows:

- Area 1: from entrance near Manly Surf Club to Fairy Bower
- Area 2: Fairy Bower
- Area 3: from Fairy Bower to Shelly Beach

PROPOSALS

1 & 2 Support awareness of and environmental education about the Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve; support conservation and awareness of the natural environment and local flora and fauna species

Community surveys by the Manly Environment Centre and DECC show there is little awareness of the aquatic beauty and marine life present in the Marine Parade foreshore and the aquatic reserve. The parade itself also features historic icons and geological features.

Permanent interpretative panels would enhance the experience of users of the parade, increase awareness of the national significance of the area, and improve conservation of the surrounding natural environment and its inhabitants (such as the water dragons).

This concept was trialled and positively received during the Day at the Bay festival in May this year. The trial showed that the existing angled wooden railings provide the ideal surface to attach interpretative signage. Manly Environment Centre has samples of the signage and footage of the positive response from participants to the panels from the festival.

Panel topics could cover: marine flora and fauna; terrestrial flora and fauna; geodiversity and local history. Sites for these and other specific ways of supporting these objectives are detailed below.

Area 1

- Entrance to parade near surf club – provide a sense of entrance with an archway-type structure/sculpture to make people aware they are entering a conservation area, its significance and, therefore, associated restrictions.
- South Steyne point (location of current heritage plaque) – install interpretative panels on history, map of vista and rock platforms visible.
- Boatshed (used by Manly Surf Club) – Boatshed roof (4 x 5m), which is close to the level of the walkway and highly visible to users, is the proposed site of an interpretative map of the bay and marine life to be painted by a local artist. This is supported by the surf club and could be similar to the map coloured by children at the Manly Environment Centre's Day at the Bay festival. This site provides access to the rock platform, a frequently visited area.

Area 2

- Entrance to Fairy Bower (site of existing notices) – install interpretive panels covering history (the pool visible to the right), water catchment (stormwater pipe visible to right), aquatic life, indigenous culture.
- *See other ideas for Area 2 in objective 5 ideas.*

Area 3

- The existing sculptures are popular – users enjoy touching them and reading about them – and should be retained and those stolen replaced. They show that users enjoy learning about the local natural features of the area.
- Rock Sculpture (near the rock fall and current retention work) – install interpretative panel about geology, its link with the bay's excellent visibility and water quality and need for local residents to avoid disturbing soil to avoid runoff polluting the bay and impacting on marine life and water quality.
- Lighting – additional discrete lighting, possibly solar, is required to expose night-time fishing activities.
- The area in the vicinity of Le Kiosk restaurant, the café, toilets and sewage pumping station provides various visitor information and education opportunities where the pathways to car park, headland and roadway meet. The Sewage Pumping Station railed platform and metal cabinets could provide opportunities for a future information shelter to house underwater photos and access to Friends of Cabbage Tree Bay volunteers.

Note: *the surface of the parade and improvements to Area 2 also provide wonderful opportunities for pursuing these objectives. See ideas under objective 5 below.*

3 Support awareness of and education about local indigenous history, culture and sites of significance

Areas 1–3

- Include visual and textual material on the significance of the area for the indigenous community and its ancestors in interpretative panels (see objectives 1 & 2 ideas above)
- Incorporate indigenous acknowledgement and culture through artistic works, such mosaics, sculptures, or silhouettes in wall or pedestrian surfaces as suggested in objective 4 ideas.

4 Retain and enhance the existing rustic character and style, ensuring that the aesthetics are in keeping with the surrounding natural beauty.

The surface of Marine Parade is a mixture of worn black asphalt (area 1), concrete and concrete paving and better quality pebble paving (areas 2 & 3). The black asphalt that covers much of area 1 is reminiscent of walking on a road, not a scenic pedestrian walkway. The part of the parade covering area 2 and leading into it from area 1 is particular ugly. The parade needs to be resurfaced to give it a uniformity and distinctiveness, and a more pleasurable aesthetic for users. The resurfacing product should be in keeping with the natural environment, such as the better quality pebble surface already used

in some parts. The parade surface is also a wonderful opportunity for artistic work to support objectives 1 & 2, such as mosaics or silhouettes of natural wildlife or quotes from historic material and local literature. Taronga Zoo, for example, has used mosaics in its new Southern Ocean exhibit in major pedestrian areas, as a means of environmental education.

Areas 1–3

- Surface: resurface the length of the parade with material appropriate for the existing nature of the walkway (such as the quality pebble surface), and include artistic work in parts of the resurfacing to support environmental education

Area 2

- See point above. The large surface area of area 2 lends itself to a mosaic or creative work.
- Cement wall connecting railings along areas 1 & 2 – a very ugly feature of the parade, this unsightly wall could be with textured with bar reliefs of marine life or replaced with a natural sandstone wall incorporating sculptures of marine life. Incorporating the heritage style wooden railing in this part of the walkway would give continuity and link both ends of the walkway.

5 Retain and restore the historic features

Areas 1 & 3

- Wooden railings: the angled wooden railings that extend all along areas 1 and 2 of the parade appear in the many heritage photographs and should be retained and restored as necessary.

Area 2

- Fairy Bower pool: retain the 1930s character, including the white painted surround and natural interface with the rocks.

6 Retain and improve the accessibility for all members of the community

Area 1

- South Steyne point: provide access to the rock platform

Area 3

- Boat ramp – access to Cabbage Tree Bay should be provided for people with disabilities via the boat ramp using a submersible wheelchair which could be stored nearby in a lockable area. This is an objective of the new DECCW draft plan. Cabbage Tree Bay with its boat ramp provides rare level access to the ocean for wheelchair-users via public transport from the city.
- Existing dinghies on Shelly Beach – removal of these would provide a nice sandbank for people to sit on.

The Community Environment Committee is currently conducting a survey of users of Marine Parade. Findings from this survey will inform the important communication issues for interpretive panels and other ideas for the upgrade.

Recommendation:

The Committee supports the submission and would like it to be

	distributed to LMUD Committee for discussion and comment and seeks an opportunity for a member of the committee to present it to the LMUD Committee	
ITEM 7	GENERAL BUSINESS AND OTHER ITEMS:	ACTION
7.1	North Head Sewage Treatment Plant Issues Susan Buchan reported that the Department of Health had no information and that we would need to take these issues up with Sydney Water. Committee members will further investigate health and safety issues for both employees, residents and visitors to the North Head STP in relation to constant exposure to poor air quality. Susan Buchan will bring back a one page summary of all issues that should be considered and any action that should be taken.	
7.2	Fairy Bower Pool Cleaning Members of the Committee have noted that a strong smell of chlorine is present in the water after pool cleaning. Recommendation: Committee recommends Council to provide information on how and what substances are used to clean this pool and Fairlight Pool.	IBM
7.3	AIPM Redevelopment. ▪ Bandicoots: The AIPM planting specifications for restoration of Bandicoot habitat stipulate species must be grown from seed collected at North Head. Whilst this is desirable there is nothing available in the volume required from the North head Sanctuary Nursery or other known sources. This means that there is a strong possibility that it could be at least two years before sufficient sheltering habitat is available. This issue will be raised at the AIPM monthly community consultation forum by Angelika Treichler and the EDO solicitor. Recommendation: This Committee requests Council staff to write to the AIPM Project Manager, with copies to relevant agencies, requesting that the catchment area for species be expanded to the customary 5km radius. ▪ Contaminants: Remediation is still continuing pending reports on chemical impacts and details. ▪ Penguins: Request to AIPM to remove yellow tape from around the rockfall so that penguins do not become entangled in it.	
ITEM 8	NEXT MEETING Date: 11 August 2010 Time: 6.30pm-8.30pm Venue: Councillors Room, Manly Council Chambers	

Meeting close at 8.30pm