



MINUTES OF MEETING

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD WEDNESDAY 9 JULY, 2014

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

Other Representatives

Michella Burgers	Community Member
Natasha Hammond	Community Member
Lloyd Keen	Community Member
Keelah Lam	Community Member
Jan Ritchie	Community Member
Jon Panic	Observer

Council Staff

Judy Reizes Manager, Manly Environment Centre

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The **Community Environment Advisory Committee** met on 9 July, 2014, to consider the matters referred to it and now provides the following advice to Council.

OPEN	The meeting commenced at 7.10pm.	
ITEM 1	APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE Karen Pitt, Diana Deeley, Jacqueline French, David Thomas.	ACTION
ITEM 2	DECLARATION OF INTEREST Nil	
ITEM 3	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES The minutes of the Committee meeting held 11 June, 2014 are confirmed.	
ITEM 4	MEC REPORT and MANLY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE ISSUES That the monthly MEC Report as tabled be accepted.	

The Weaving Bridges Project Launch as part of the Guringai Festival, was a great success, attracting over 100 people and included smoking ceremony and entertainment.

Over 250 community members, including school children contributed to the weavings over 14 Weaving workshops with indigenous weaver, Karleen Green. These woven pieces have been used to construct 3 large woven whales, each 2 metres long. They are being displayed around Manly on the beachfront during the school holidays and will move to Warringah Council and then later locations between the two Councils. Lots of people can be seen taking photos of them.

ITEM 5 OUR LAND OUR WATER OUR FUTURE

The Nature Conservation Council campaigner has advised that there will be a launch of the Manly Loop of the Knitting Nannas Against Gas in Manly involving the following events:

- Friday 8 August – 12noon to 4pm Meet the Knitting Nannas Against Gas from Northern Rivers
- and 6pm to 8.30pm Evening Film Night – Learn about Nanna-fest Philosophy
- Tuesday 5 August – 6pm – 8.30pm - Manly OLOWOF Volunteer Meeting at Manly Library Meeting Room.

ITEM 6 LITTLE PENGUIN REPORT

a. Penguin Warden Report

There was no penguin warden report as the wharf penguins have not arrived this year.

b. Taronga Zoo Project Penguin Expo Day

This was a huge success involving nearly 900 students and 17 schools. There were a record number of 175 exhibits and many of these will be displayed during the school holidays at venues all over the Northern Beaches

c. Penguins at Darling Point

We have received information, local media and short videos from a resident about Manly Penguins who are foraging on a regular basis in and around the foreshore near McKell Park during the day. Council's Biodiversity Officer is following up the concerns raised about plans to provide future access to this foreshore by unleashed dogs. He has asked Woollahra Council to consider the Penguin Recovery Plan in their feasibility study for construction of an access staircase as it is possible that these Penguins nest in Manly. Woollahra Council is aware of penguins using the area as they have included measures to provide habitat in nearby McKell Park. Woollahra Council has advised that they will liaise with the Department of Environment and Heritage.

d. Penguin Research Meeting at SIMS

This all day meeting was a great opportunity for Judy Reizes and Jacob Sife, Council's Biodiversity Officer to meet with university

researchers from Victoria, South Australia and other parts of New South Wales. There was a general consensus that overall penguin numbers are falling and the cause for this was unknown.

ITEM 7 SYDNEY WATER ISSUES

a. Odours from Whistler Street Sewage Pumping Station

IBM

As there are constant odours from this Station which is surrounded by cafes in the Manly CBD, Manly Council should make a complaint.

b. Complaints re Sewage Sludge Truck Odours

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A number of Manly cafes have raised concerns about odours from sludge trucks travelling through Manly CBD at breakfast time. They noted that there are no apparent seals on the trucks.

c. Odour Loggers on North Head

Council has received a number of reports from the recently installed Odour Loggers on North Head. They only measure H₂S and to date there appears to be no measurable odour with the exception of the area near Quarantine Station which Sydney Water is suggesting could be coming from local sources.

d. Odours from Sedimentation Tanks

Council has received a reply from Sydney Water denying that Odourlok was ever used in the plant's 6 sedimentation tanks. This is in spite of Council providing a copy of Minutes of a meeting between EPA and staff from the Plant, stating that Odourlok has been used for sometime.

ITEM 8 NORTHERN BEACHES HOSPITAL

In June 2014 approval was granted to the concept proposal for the staged Northern Beaches Hospital.

Stage 1 of the development permits clearance of most of the vegetation on the site, excluding the area of vegetation broadly consistent with the former Blinking Light Reserve, east of Bantry Bay Road. The conditions of approval require that the clearing works be carried out in a specific manner and subject to the preparation of certain documents.

The Committee has become aware that works have recently commenced on the Northern Beaches Hospital site, and clearing of vegetation is taking place. The Committee is concerned about the animals on that site that might be harmed as a result of the clearing, and seeks to ensure that the clearing is being carried out in accordance with the conditions of approval.

The following conditions were identified by the Committee as being relevant to clearing and fauna protection. We request that Manly Council ask that clearing cease until Conditions B4, B5 and B6 that relate to hollow bearing trees are complied with as well as Clause B8 that all trees are protected.

IBM

ITEM 9 PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES AND MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES FOR 30 DAY INAUGURAL SYDNEY HARBOUR & COAST WALK REST DAY IN MANLY ON TUESDAY 19 AUGUST

After discussions between Phil Jenkyn from The Walking Volunteers and the Mayor and Beth Lawsen, as well as Meegan Clancy and Judy Reizes, a program has been finalised for the enjoyment of the walkers and promotion of their walk through Manly.

The Mayor and Council are arranging a BBQ at noon at Shelly Beach for the walkers, media, Cabbage Tree Bay volunteers and staff. This will provide an excellent opportunity for media to cover the walkers' progress as well as seeing the Wonderful Woven Whales from the Guringai Festival.

MEC will meet the walkers at 9.30am and show them various natural attractions including habitats for penguins, seahorses, bandicoots, echidnas and eastern water dragons. They will also get to meet Friends of Cabbage Tree Bay volunteers who will be set up at Fairy Bower (as they do at weekends) and then view the World Surfing Reserve from the Headland.

ITEM 10 CABBAGE TREE BAY ISSUES UPDATES

A. Friends of Cabbage Tree Bay Volunteer Enrichment Day Saturday 5 July

i. Talk for NAIDOC Week

Dennis Foley, Professor of Indigenous History gave a talk about indigenous people's relationship to the marine life in the Bay.

ii. Illegal Fishing Issues Update

The letter from Mike Baird advised that in regard to illegal spear fishing reports, Fisheries Officers responded to the report of alleged illegal activity, however, the spear fisher had left the area upon their arrival. Fisheries Officers, as part of their programmed patrols apprehended 4 spear fishers on 3 March 2014 within the Bay. For the year 2014 to date there have been 5 incidents investigated with 10 compliance outcomes reported within the Bay. These outcomes include Penalty Infringement Notices and Written Cautions.

It was suggested that we should have an app made to facilitate the community reporting infringements as soon as they observe them. The promotion of the app's availability could act as a deterrent.

Recommendation:

The Manly Environment Centre seeks the assistance of a volunteer to design an app to facilitate community reporting of fishing infringements of the Cabbage Tree Bay No-take Aquatic Reserve.

iii. Coastal Zone Management Plan

Coastal Officer, Jacqui McLeod gave a presentation about various issues and opportunities for the group's input to the process.

B. CSIRO National Marine Debris Study

Judy Reizes advised that she had spoken directly to the author of this report and determined that:

- i. Shelly Beach Manly was the beach with the most marine debris
- ii. The survey included only one beach every 100 km
- iii. The method used was to sample small sand transects from the shoreline to the grass and count the number of items. In the case of

Shelly Beach, there was an extensive cover of a lot of tiny pieces of plastic.

(It is interesting to note that in the case of the study carried out by Macquarie University last year of Manly Beach after daily raking, it was estimated that there would be 20,000,000 pieces of microplastics on Manly Beach.

Recommendation:

The MEC investigate a student research project to determine if there is a link between the microplastics on Shelly Beach and the North Head Waste Water Treatment Plant.

JR Action

C. Signage about Dogs

Judy Reizes tabled various signs about dog control from other Councils. These will be included in the Cabbage Tree Bay Signage Audit as suggestions.

**ITEM 11 NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION MARINE FORUM
“CELEBRATING SYDNEY HARBOUR: FROM RESEARCH TO
ACTION” - A Parallel Event to the IUCN World Parks Congress,
9 November, 2014**

This conference will feature a number of high profile speakers describing the well-documented significance of Sydney Harbour and the challenge to advance the marine futures of Sydney Harbour. Other speakers include Richard Nicholls, Dive Centre Manly and President of the Dive Industry Association of Australia about the commercial value of conservation to the industry and Judy Reizes has been asked to speak about Conservation Heritage of Sydney Harbour and adjacent coastlines.

**ITEM 12 MANLY COUNCIL COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE 25th
YEAR**

Judy Reizes will begin preparation of a list of former Committee members and achievements to bring to the next meeting.

JR Action

**ITEM 13 GENERAL BUSINESS
OUTDOOR GAS HEATERS**

MEC volunteers will count the number of gas heaters used in Manly CBD and provide the information to the August meeting.

JR Action

**ITEM 14 NEXT MEETING DATE:
Date: Wednesday 13 August, 2014
Time: 7.00pm.
Venue: Manly Council Chambers.**

Meeting closed at 9.10pm.