



MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD WEDNESDAY, 14TH MARCH, 2012

Councillors

Cathy Griffin

Manly Council (Chair)

Hugh Burns

Manly Council

Other Representatives

Eira Battaglia

Community Member

Jacqueline French

Community Member

Diana Deeley

Community Member

David Thomas

Community Member

Keelah Lam

Community Member

Lloyd Keen

Community Member

Angelika Treichler

Penguin Warden Representative

Council Staff

Judy Reizes

Manager, Manly Environment Centre

Robynne Millward (part of the meeting)

Project Officer, Manly Environment Centre

Observer

Natasha Hammond-Deakin

Environmental Defenders Office

Myriam Pitre

Permaculture

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The Community Environment Committee met on 14th March, 2012, to consider the matters referred to it and now provides the following advice to Council.

OPEN The meeting commenced at 6.45pm

ACTION

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE
Richard Hewitt, Susan Buchan, Neil Ohlback

ITEM 2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST
Nil

ITEM 3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
The minutes of the Committee meeting held 8th February, 2012 were confirmed.

ITEM 4	MANLY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE ECO AWARD 2012 Congratulations to Silke Stuckenbrock, winner of the MEC Eco Award for 2012. Local artist, Mark Budd provided a striking painting which was presented to Silke by Councillor Jean Hay. Silke, Co-founder of the Two Hands Project, is a dedicated coastal environmentalist who has inspired thousands of followers around the world to follow her lead in a hands-on and internet-based 'clean up' movement with the tag line –'30 minutes, two hands, anywhere, anytime'. From humble beginnings on Sydney's Northern Beaches, the project has recognised, inspired and united environmentalists across the globe. There were 17 other nominations for the Eco Award. This annual event is hosted at Oceanworld on 8th March and is held to celebrate the MEC's birthday (21 years) and the annual SeaWeek with the theme 'Marine Debris'. The International School of Management catered the event which was enjoyed by an enthusiastic audience. Jennifer Sinclair, University of NSW and Stephen Summerhayes, Sydney Coastal Councils gave short talks on the impacts of marine debris. Manly Village School student Rafaul Gordon spoke about his award-winning movie on Manly's wildlife.	ACTION
ITEM 5	MEC REPORT MEC Program for 2012...International Year of Sustainable Energy For Everyone and International Year of Co-operatives Robynne Millward, Project Officer, tabled a draft document describing the various elements of the program which evolved from the MEC annual planning meeting. Committee members suggested the following additions for events/projects/themes. 22nd April – Earth Day – Manly Food Co-operative's 15th Birthday to be held in Ivanhoe Park. 13-22nd June – Rio+20 to be celebrated in Rio de Janeiro – theme Green Economy. 22nd June – Walk Against Warming. Ivanhoe Park Community Garden Information Session.	
ITEM 6	PENGUIN REPORT The 2011/2012 breeding season has finally finished. It has been a long one: From early May to one week into March. As the coordinator for the Penguin Protectors, I would like to thank the team of volunteers who, in all weathers, tirelessly stood guard over the last remaining pair of little penguins and its two clutches of chicks. Last Sunday National Parks and Wildlife Services organised a BBQ brunch to thank all their volunteers for the work done. We would like to thank, especially Mel Tyas and Peter Hay, for this lovely event. This Friday we are holding a Farewell to the Penguins Picnic, 6.00 pm, at the wharf. Please join us if you can.	

WHARF HABITAT:

The delay of the penguins breeding activities was caused by several very high tides in June when the first eggs were spoilt and the nests abandoned. There was only one breeding pair left, Stickybeak and widowed Mrs Silverwing. They moved into Stickybeak's old burrow and started again.

They went ahead to have two clutches, lengthening the season to more than 10 months. This was the reason why we couldn't join 'Clean-Up-Australia' for the traditional 'Under-Wharf-Clean-Up', because there were still two moulting penguins under the wharf. Silke Stuckenbrock, the winner of this year's Eco Award, and I are going to clean-up under the wharf this Friday since all the penguins have left now.

I am very grateful to her, and all the Eco divers, who are wonderful supporters of our work.

Silke was also instrumental in the rescue of this year's Wharf Chick, now called Lucky. David Jenkins, the penguins' 'court-photographer', luckily spotted some fishing line wrapped around the chick's foot when he looked at one of his images on the computer.

We organised the successful rescue action for that very night and two days later, a penguin protector who lives near the habitat witnessed the farewell and singing-lesson at midnight. I am sure that, if she had understood the lyrics, she would have heard David's, Silke's and Paul's praises sung.

It looks as though we rescued Lucky just in time.

FEDERATION POINT:

No sightings yet.

This year, I led a group of about 25 'Oceanworld' volunteers to do the 'Clean-Up-Australia' tidy-up at Federation Point and beyond. This was all part of trying to remain optimistic about the penguins returning one day.

Still, there are dogs off-leash along the Scenic Walkway, even on Delwood Beach.

However, it looks promising: At least improved signage might finally be re-installed. Councillor Griffin and I met with council staff this morning to explain in detail why there needs to be more legible signage in form of a Wildlife-Protection-Area map. These separate signs with maps which need to be fixed directly beneath the sign with the 'Dog-On-Leash' illustration. I particularly asked for the phrase

'Penalty Applies'

to be more prominent. This should help with compliance.

We are now waiting for confirmation for this work order from the General Manager.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Community Environment Committee, the Manly Environment Centre and Manly Council for the support we were given in looking after Manly's Little Penguins.

Angelika Treichler

On behalf of Manly's Penguin Protectors

Federation Point Wildlife Protection Area Signage

Natasha Hammond-Deakin, Solicitor with the Environmental Defenders Office provided legal advice on the need to provide appropriate signage located on the perimeter of the extended Wildlife Protection Area.

The committee agreed that the signs

- Include the correct map showing the full extent of the Wildlife Protection area
- Display the amount of the fine to act as a deterrent to dog owners.
- Display the relevant Acts in a text that can be easily read from a distance.
- Be displayed in a prominent way and placed at the entry.

Recommendation: That Council adopt the legal advice given by the EDO and implement this advice in the signage currently being approved for printing by Council.

ITEM 7 CABBAGE TREE BAY

Day at the Bay Event at Shelly Beach on 31st March (10am-4pm) to celebrate the ten years since it was declared an Aquatic Reserve is being organised by MEC and will include a number of displays and information stalls, talks by Dave Thomas, scientists, walks, live critters and childrens' activities, as well as music and artists.

From 8am to noon, Ecodivers will be running snorkel tours and "Splash for Species".

Reporting Illegal Fishing

Eira Battaglia reported that recently she was complaining about the slow response to reports of illegal fishing in Cabbage Tree Bay to NSW Fisheries. Their Compliance Manager, Chris Clark advised that for a faster response, people should call the mobile number of the duty officer 0419 185 363. This number should be promoted on site signage, brochures and posters to encourage people to put this number in their mobile phones.

Recommendation:

Council calls for a meeting with NSW Fisheries and interested stakeholders, including Fairy Bower Precinct, to discuss the implementation of the Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve Plan of Management and compliance.

ITEM 8 UPDATE ON SEAHORSES AND MANLY COVE SWIMMING ENCLOSURE

The committee requests support from Council to hold a "seahorse summit" with various interested parties with a view to providing permanent habitat for the ongoing preservation of the seahorses in the harbour and Manly Cove in particular. The following should be included: Council, Department of Primary Industry, Maritime, Ecodivers, Environment Committee Members, Penguin Protectors and MEC This will assist Council to meet the deadline described in their State of the Environment Report 2010-11 "implementation of the adopted longer term recommendation for a more permanent solution will begin in 2012."

This item will be placed on the Agenda for next meeting.

ITEM 9 ANCHORING ISSUES OVER SEAGRASS IN MANLY COVE WEST AND SPRING COVE

At the request of the committee, the General Manager wrote a letter last year to Environment Minister, Robin Parker, in this matter,

including with the letter underwater photographs of seagrass provided by Ecodivers. This followed a boat tour pointing out the impacts of anchoring over the sea grass, organised by National Parks and including Maritime and Ecodivers. It was understood that there was agreement at that time that anchoring would be prohibited over the seagrass as per Fisheries and Maritime regulations. However, the boating industry has recently protested at the lack of consultation and Local Member, Mike Baird has forwarded a letter to Ecodivers referring them to Maritime in this matter.

Recommendation:

The General Manager is requested to write to the local member, requesting he facilitate a meeting to commence consultation on this matter with the nominated stakeholders.

ITEM 10 REPORTING AND RECORDING ROADKILL

Eira Battaglia, committee member and Wildlife Carer, advised that Australian Wildlife Carers have an online mapping program for recording roadkills nationally. Go to www.awcn.org/mapping

Recommendation:

The community be encouraged to record road deaths of North Head's Longnosed Bandicoot as well as other roadkills on this website.

ITEM 11 LONGNOSED BANDICOOTS

Natural Resources staff are requested to provide the committee with an update and a written report on the progress of the education program in the residential area

ITEM 12 REMOVAL OF STORMWATER PIPE AT NORTH STEYNE

Following the committee's recommendation that Council review the effectiveness of the Low Flow Pipes Extension of Environmental Effects, the following response was received from Michael Galloway, Water Cycle Management Team Leader:

Response from WCM Team Leader 28/11/2011 "The function of the Manly Lagoon low flow pipes are currently being reviewed by a number of studies already prepared or underway by Warringah Council, given the overall shared Council management of Manly Lagoon and the entrance. The overall function and operation of the low flow pipes must be carefully managed due to the strong influence of the Low Flow Pipes on lagoon drainage and catchment flooding, entrance management conditions, kelp accumulation in the Lagoon, the extent of the tidal penetration (salinity) and the impact on Lagoon ecology and environmental impacts.

Warringah Council has commissioned a draft Study 'Warringah Coastal Lagoons Entrance Management Review (BMT WBM Pty Ltd)' examining the entrance management regime. Warringah Council has also commissioned studies specific to the low flow pipes and the joint management 'Memorandum of Understanding for the Joint Management and Monitoring of the Manly Lagoon low pipes and Scour Channel at Queenscliff (Equatica)' and maintenance triggers 'Maintenance Plan for the Low Flow Pipes at Queenscliff, Manly Lagoon (Equatica)'. These studies are currently being considered by staff and both Councils in the context of ongoing management.

Additionally, Manly and Warringah Councils are currently undertaking a new Flood Study for the Manly Lagoon Catchment, due to be completed in draft in late 2012. The artificial entrance regime at Manly Lagoon, comprising the bulldozed scour channel and low flow pipes, is a major controlling factor on flood water levels in Manly Lagoon. As such, it is appropriate that this flood study in 2012 is completed prior to further review and decision making related to the Lagoon entrance and low flow pipes.”

ITEM 13 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT/GPTs

The committee would like to invite Michael Galloway, Team Leader, Water Cycle Management to give a presentation on stormwater management of these pipes that flow into the harbour and ocean.

ITEM 14 NEXT MEETING DATE:

Date: Wednesday, 11th April, 2012

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: Councillors' Room, Manly Council

Meeting closed 8.45pm.