



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that of a meeting of **Community Environment Committee** will be held:

DATE: Wednesday 10 April 2013

TIME: 7.00pm – 9.00pm.

PLACE: Councillors' Room, First Floor, Town Hall, 1 Belgrave Street, Manly.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Councillors

Cllr Jean Hay AM, Mayor (ex officio)	Manly Council
Cllr Cathy Griffin	Manly Council
Cllr Hugh Burns	Manly Council

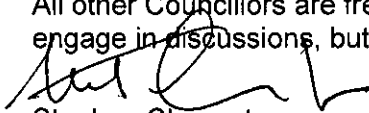
Other Representatives

Susan Buchan	Community Representative
Michella Burgers	Community Representative
Diana Deeley	Community Representative
Jacqueline French	Community Representative
Natasha Hammond-Deakin	Community Representative
Lloyd Keen	Community Representative
Keelah Lam	Community Representative
Neil Ohlbach	Community Representative
Dr Jan Ritchie	Community Representative
David Thomas	Community Representative
Karen Pitt	Community Representative
Jan Ritchie	Community Representative
Lee DeGail	National Parks & Wildlife Representative

Council Staff

Judy Reizes	Manager, Manly Environment Centre
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All other Councillors are free to attend as observers and are invited to do so and to engage in discussions, but not in voting, on any matter before the Committee.


Stephen Clements

Deputy General Manager, Executive Manager, Landuse & Sustainability

Date: 3rd April, 2013



MEETING TO BE HELD ON Wednesday 10 April, 2013

**THE COUNCILLORS' ROOM, MANLY TOWN HALL,
1 BELGRAVE ST, MANLY**

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| ITEM 1 | Apologies and leave of absence. |
| ITEM 2 | Declarations of Interest – Pecuniary
Non - Pecuniary |
| ITEM 3 | Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting 13 March, 2013 and Matters Arising. |
| ITEM 4 | Report – MEC Report & Current Local Environmental Issues Report |
| ITEM 5 | Penguin Warden Report |
| ITEM 6 | Report Draft Environmental Levy Bids 2013-14 – Eduard McPeake |
| ITEM 7 | Day at the Bay – Sunday 21 April, celebrating Earth Day |
| ITEM 8 | General Business brought to the Attention of the Chair Prior to the Meeting and Approved for Consideration. |
| ITEM 9 | Next Meeting: Wednesday 8 May, 2013 at 7.00pm. |



MINUTES OF MEETING

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH, 2013

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

Karen Pitt

Susan Buchan

Michella Burgers

Diana Deeley

Jacqueline French

Natasha Hammond-Deakin

Lloyd Keen

Neil Ohlbach

David Thomas

Penguin Warden

Community Member

Community Member

Community Member

Community Member

Community Member

Community Member

Community Member

Community Member

Council Staff

Judy Reizes

Manager, Manly Environment Centre.

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The **Community Environment Advisory Committee** met on 13 March, 2013, 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

Keelah Lam, Jan Ritchie

ACTION

ITEM 2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil

ITEM 3	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES The minutes of the Committee meeting held 20 February 2013 are confirmed.	ACTION
	MATTERS ARISING It was resolved at Council's Ordinary Meeting held on 11 March 2013 that the minutes of the Community Environment Advisory Committee be adopted.	
ITEM 4	MANLY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE ISSUES a. MEC Report That the monthly MEC Report as tabled be accepted. b. DAY AT THE BAY EVENT SUNDAY APRIL 21ST AT SHELLY BEACH Council has approved that the third Day at the Bay be held to celebrate Earth Day and the 11 th anniversary of the gazettal of the Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve. This event will showcase the activities of the Friends of Cabbage Tree Bay Volunteer Group. Following a very productive meeting with Council's Communication Manager and Lloyd Keen and Judy Reizes, it will be widely promoted to diving groups, schools, community groups, visitors and residents. Volunteer assistance will be welcome in promoting and assisting with the multifaceted program. Recommendation: That Council provide an allocation of \$2000 for the conduct of the Day at the Bay from Ocean Care Day 2012 funding. c. Permanent Premises for MEC Consideration was given to the Manly Environment Centre being accommodated at Council property at 34 Stuart Street. Other options were discussed. The notes from the Committee working party meetings on determining the future needs of the Manly Environment Centre will be presented at the next meeting. (This was based on the "Accommodation Needs for the Operation of the Manly Environment Centre" prepared by Judy Reizes and MEC). The matter can then be discussed by the Committee and passed to Council to inform their investigation. Recommendation: That this Committee supports Council investigating the relocation of the MEC to permanent community premises at 34 Stuart Street, the Fisho's Club, the Bathers' Pavilion or Manly Baby Health Centre. d. Cataloguing of MEC Collection Recommendation: MEC Manager should prepare a budget bid to initiate	

cataloguing the MEC's extensive collection.

e. MEC Eco Awards Report – Presentation Night

This year there were a record 21 entries in the MEC Eco Awards.

Sue Halmagyi was the winner of the MEC 7th Eco Award for initiating and managing the North Head Sanctuary Plant Nursery. This is the only endangered plant nursery run by volunteers in Australia. Congratulations to Sue and the Plant Nursery for their excellent work as well as to the staff and volunteers of the MEC for a great event.

Recommendation:

That Council congratulate Sue Halmagyi and the North Head Sanctuary Foundation Plant Nursery volunteers, as well as MEC staff and volunteers of the MEC for a great event.

ITEM 5 PENGUIN WARDEN REPORT

Karen Pitt advised that the situation was unchanged at the Wharf habitat

ITEM 6 ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY BIDS 2013-14

Eduard McPeake has advised that these will be presented at the April meeting of this committee.

ITEM 7 COMMITTEE ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY BID IDEAS

a. THREATENED POPULATIONS OF MANLY'S LITTLE PENGUINS AND LONGNOSED BANDICOOTS

i. Nosey Little Neighbours - Longnosed Bandicoot Community Education, Engagement, Monitoring and Research Project by Sydney University –

At this Committee's meeting of 20th February, following a presentation from Catherine Price, Sydney University the committee strongly supported the Environment Levy Bid for the continued monitoring of the urban population on Eastern Hill each year at an approximate costing of \$10,000 per financial year.

ii. Little Penguins

As the Manly's Penguin Wardens continue to report pressure and impacts on this struggling colony, the committee supports the continued allocation of \$10,000 to Penguin projects.

Recommendation: This committee strongly supports the allocation of \$10,000 each for Penguin and Bandicoot projects from the Environmental Levy.

b. PROTECTED SEAHORSE HABITAT ON MANLY COVE SWIMMING ENCLOSURE NET

This swimming enclosure net was once home to one of the largest colonies of protected seahorses in Sydney Harbour. This colony was severely impacted by damage to the nets in 2002 when the net was

replaced and again in 2010 by apparent vandalism. During 2011 Council adopted recommendations for best management practices and a net was rehung specifically for seahorse habitat and Council adopted recommendations for a more permanent solution in 2012. (Manly Council State of the Environment Report 2010-2011). Dave Thomas from Ecodivers reported that his recent audit of the swimming enclosure net showed that the population has increased to 147 Seahorses. However, there is insufficient habitat to provide adequate protection to the seahorses, particularly to their very vulnerable young.

It is essential that Council prioritise Environmental Levy funding for a long term solution for this internationally recognized seahorse habitat, in the form of a new trampoline- style structure free of copper to encourage the marine growth to provide protection and camouflage.

Recommendation:

Council to develop a proposal to replace netting with a seahorse-habitat-friendly structure. This netting structure should be free of copper and be designed to encourage marine growth to provide protection for the seahorses.

Funding from the Environment Levy should be used for this project and Council should seek additional grant funding for this protected precinct.

BIODIVERSITY COMMUNICATION PROJECT

The committee discussed the Biodiversity Project and recommended that this year's funding be used to install interpretative educational signs.

The signage which would use the back of the many (over 100) hoop signs around the Manly LGA to provide interpretative information about the Manly's biodiversity. The diversity and abundance of Manly's terrestrial and marine species, including threatened and protected species is extensive and of great interest to tourists, residents and students alike. However, there is little readily existing accessible signage and information of a consistent nature which reflects the wealth of Manly's natural environment to the 6-8 million tourists who visit Manly each year. The hooped signs are situated on promenades, beaches, parks, playgrounds, community halls, sporting fields, bushland areas, etc.

Research clearly demonstrates the role that quality interpretative information plays in preserving the natural environment. Market research carried out at Cabbage Tree Bay by members of this Committee has demonstrated that visitors and residents are completely unaware of the value of its biodiversity and their role in protecting it. ("Report on Cabbage Tree Bay Survey of Visitor Beliefs and Attitudes to the Aquatic Reserve").

Recommendation:

Biodiversity funding be used to develop and install interpretative educational signs for the Manly LGA.

IBM

ITEM 8 UPDATE ON NORTH HEAD SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

a. Odour Issues – Funding Allocation for Odour Management Project for North Head

Community feedback from this month's North Head Sewage Treatment Plant Consultative Committee indicates that Council's letter requesting that the Local Member make a funding announcement for North Head of the project's estimated remaining \$34 million, and that this should be an Agenda item, was not raised at the meeting. When odours were discussed, it was disclosed that odour consultants have been on site since last year and that the matter will be addressed in 2015. The next meeting in August will be devoted to discussing odour problems at the plant.

b. Removal of North Head Ocean Outfall

As above, although Council had requested that their letter conveying the Council resolution of 11th February 2013, be put on the Agenda at the recent Consultative Committee this matter was not raised. Rather a 90 minute presentation "Status and Future: North Head WWTP" was made detailing plans to expand the plant.

ITEM 9 MASTERPLAN FOR SPRING COVE

The Committee discussed the degradation of bushland around Jump Rock and agreed it was impossible to prevent people from using the area.

The Master Plan provides an opportunity to improve habitat and repair damage to cliff face by climbers and visitors to Jump Rock. One of the aims is to deter jumping from Jump Rock into the water and there has been a suggestion to install a pontoon below to inhibit jumpers.

Following National Park workshops on Tourism last year, it would appear that their Policy is to harden sites in order to increase access

It has been suggested that public toilets be installed at Little Manly Point but the preferred location is in the highly accessible area close to residential activity in the car park where it is safer, particularly for women to use.

Recommendation

This committee supports the installation of pathways on track routes but requests that any proposal should be sent to this committee for comment and discussion.

ITEM 10 NEXT MEETING DATE:

Date: Wednesday 10 April, 2013

Time: 7.00pm.

Venue: Manly Council Chambers.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm.



TO: Manly Community Environment Committee
MEETING DATE: 10 April, 2013
AUTHOR: Judy Reizes, Community Environment Committee Co-ordinator
SUBJECT: MEC and Current Local Environmental Issues Report

Manly Environment Centre Report

The MEC has worked on the following initiatives:-

INTERNSHIPS AND VOLUNTEERS:

Chihiro our intern from Japan left after being with us for 6 weeks.

Jinah our intern from South Korea started and will be with us four months.

We continue to receive more Intern and Volunteer applications every month.

ECO AWARDS ON 7TH MARCH – SEA WEEK

This year's awards attracted 21 entries, a record number and attracted a diverse field of environmental achievements by volunteers.

The winner of this award was Sue Halmagyi, the founder and manager of the North Head Sanctuary Foundation Plant Nursery. This is the only endangered plant nursery run by volunteers in Australia.

The Deputy Mayor, Alan Le Surf presented the award, a painting by local artist Mark Budd. Marine Scientist, Belinda Curley gave an excellent talk on Sustainable Fisheries, the theme for this year's Sea Week.

The event was hosted by Manly SeaLife Sanctuaries and catered by students and staff from the International College of Tourism.

Displays by EcoDivers, 2 Hands and Friends of Cabbage Tree Bay Volunteers provided a lot of interest.

MILO CRESS AND THE STRAWFREE CAMPAIGN

Milo is an amazing 11 year old from the USA, who is on a world speaking tour about going "Strawfree". MEC staff and interns attended his first talk in Australia at Kimbriki EcoHouse and Garden, attended by a number of local schools. His approach is not to ban straws but to encourage restaurants and retailers to ask whether people need a straw. His approach has won the support and interest of a number of groups in the USA, from industry groups to national parks.

The annual use of drinking straws in USA would fill 46 large school buses.

Manly Mayor, Jean Hay invited Milo, his mother, Odale and Judy Reizes to morning tea and became the first Australian Mayor to declare the "Offer-first" policy, a Best Practice for local food outlets in support of the BeStraw-Free project, (see the Mayor's Message 30th March 2013). The MEC has organised a number of speaking opportunities for Milo at local schools which were enthusiastically received, see below.

MEETINGS:

Meetings/Visits/events attended in March included:-

1 March – Meeting with Montessori School re Open Day.

4 March - Selection panel for judging of 21 nominations for Eco Awards.

5 March - Meeting Friends of Cabbage Tree Bay Working Group & Volunteers.

11 March – Meeting Danielle Chenery, Peninsula Living Magazine with Dave Thomas, EcoDivers and Clr. Griffin re Friends of Cabbage Tree Bay Volunteer Group.

12 March – Meeting Melinda Aitkenhead, Communications Manager, Manly Council and Lloyd Keen – Promoting A Day at the Bay.

13 March – Meeting with Taronga Zoo and other stakeholders re Project Penguin 2013 which will start in May.

13 March Guringai Festival meeting with Warringah Council, Manly Community Centre and Community members attended by Robynne Millward.

21 March Video Conferencing Meeting attended by Robynne Millward.

25 March Sydney Coastal Councils Meeting “Becoming Social” attended by Robynne Millward.

VISITS/EVENTS/LAUNCHES:

7 March - Eco Awards Presentation Event at 6-8pm at Sea Life Sanctuary, winner Sue Halmagyi, Founder and Manager of North Head Sanctuary Foundation Plant Nursery

14 March - Attendance at Kimbriki Eco House and Garden school event featuring Milo Cress.

19 March - Manly Community Centre – Community Hub event.

25-28 March – MEC arranged the following visits by Milo Cress, Strawfree:

- Morning Tea with Manly Mayor Jean Hay.
- Pittwater High School to meet the School Environment Committee and
- Balgowlah Heights Public School.

UPCOMING EVENTS

A Day at the Bay – Sun 21 April, 2013.

RECOMMENDATION:

Report be received and noted.

Judy Reizes
Manly Community Environment Committee Co-ordinator
2 April, 2013