



MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD WEDNESDAY, 9 OCTOBER, 2013

Councillors

Cathy Griffin	Manly Council (Chair)
Hugh Burns	Manly Council

Other Representatives

Diana Deeley	Community Member
Natasha Hammond-Deakin	Community Member
Lloyd Keen	Community Member
Dr Jan Ritchie	Community Member

Council Staff

Judy Reizes	Manager, Manly Environment Centre
Jacob Sife	Environmental Officer

Observers

Catherine Price	Sydney University
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TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The Community Environment Committee met on 9 October, 2013, to consider the matters referred to it and now provides the following advice to Council.

OPEN The meeting commenced at 7.05pm

ACTION

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Susan Buchan, Michella Burgers, Jacqueline French, Keelah Lam, Neil Ohlbach, Karen Pitt, Dave Thomas.

WELCOME TO JACOB SIFE, COUNCIL'S ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER

The committee welcomed Jacob as the Council's new Biodiversity Officer. The committee invited Jacob to attend the Committee meeting and provide a quarterly report.

ITEM 2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil.

ITEM 3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 11th September, 2013 were confirmed.

ITEM 4 MEC Report & Current Local Environmental Issues Report
Received and noted.

ACTION

a. Launch of National Biodiversity Month and Manly Council's Community Biodiversity Project and "Hop In and Help Manly Lagoon" Mural installed under Stuart Somerville Bridge

Thirty five children from Manly OOSH attended the launch with the Mayor, Councillors Bingham and Griffin, Council and MEC staff. These young children loved the mural and were able to tell the adults how to protect our storm water.

This is the first stage of Council's Community Biodiversity Project funded by the Environmental Levy.

b. 2nd Bike Life Festival 2013 – Sunday 22nd September including Retro Ride

The Committee would like to congratulate the MEC staff and volunteers on a fantastic event.

This event was launched by the Mayor and Alan Le Surf acted as MC, special guest was past Olympian cyclist Sid Taberlay.

Over 3,000 people attended over the day and exhibitor numbers were up more than threefold on last year with 23 exhibitors plus MEC and Road Safety stands. A highlight of the festival was the NSW Inaugural Cyclo Cross event which was run in conjunction with the Manly Warringah Cycle Club and brought in big crowds in the afternoon, including events for children with Under 7's competing. Other new events included the highly entertaining "Fix-a-Flat competition" with the winner taking out the "Golden Pump", a "Catch-a-Critter" race and slow bike race for young children.

Promotion included "Bike Rack Wrap", with local artists wrapping the bike racks around town. The new artwork for the festival with images of the yarn-bombed bike on all artwork and banners worked well and linked in with the bike being moved around Manly in the lead up to the event. Social media played a large part in the successful marketing of the event with exhibitors using it to target their networks and attracting exhibitors from the other side of town.

The entertainment stage was powered by people pedaling on bikes rigged to the AV equipment for the launch and for the musicians throughout the day.

The committee congratulated the MEC the fantastic Bike Life Festival cycling event attended by about 3000 people??????

ITEM 5 BURNT BRIDGE CREEK WALK – Chris Kraus, Bushland management Co-ordinator will lead this walk for Committee

members on Monday, 14th October.

ITEM 6 PRESENTATION ON SYDNEY UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PROJECT ON MONITORING LONGNOSED BANDICOOTS IN THE RESIDENTIAL AREA

Catherine Price, Research Associate, Behavioural Ecology and Conservation Research Group, School of Biological Sciences, Sydney University gave a very comprehensive presentation which was very well received by the committee.

A draft of her report 'Longnosed Bandicoot Final Trapping Report' which had 8 recommendations to Council, all of which the Committee supported was tabled.

125 responses were received to the online survey, most of them local and the Community Meeting on 2nd October was very well attended.

The committee would like to request that a half page summary for Council Precinct Committee newsletters be prepared.

Recommendation:

The committee would like to recommend:

- That Council adopts "Longnosed Bandicoot Final Trapping Report" together with its 8 recommendations by Sydney University Research Associate, Catherine Price.
- That Catherine Price be commended for a very thorough project which exceeded expectations particularly in the degree of community engagement which was one of the major intentions.
- That a half page summary be prepared for Council Precinct Group newsletters.
- That Council's annual allocation of \$10,000 funding from the environmental levy for bandicoot monitoring in the residential area be continued.
- That Council's Biodiversity officer develop a proposal in consultation with Catherine Price to seek additional sources of funding sufficient to retain the services of a researcher in the future.

ITEM 7 REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS FOR SYDNEY WATER NORTH HEAD WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT ODOUR MANAGEMENT

The committee's recommendation has been passed onto Sydney Water staff but there has been no reply from Sydney Water at the time of this meeting. The committee's recommendation was that we request that Sydney Water provide the results of the voluntary audit of odour sources from the North Head Waste Water Treatment Plant. There was no date for the proposed exhibition of the Review of Environmental Factors to date.

ITEM 8 PENGUINS AT MANLY WHARF

There was no penguin report to this meeting as Karen Pitt, Penguin Warden was an apology.

ITEM 9 CABBAGE TREE BAY AQUATIC RESERVE

a. Sand Migration at Shelly Beach

The MEC has been approached by Macquarie University for a

10 week student project and three experienced students will investigate the causes of the sand migration at Shelly Beach. It is hoped that during this time Council will cease using the mechanical beach rake so that its impacts can be monitored. The three students from Macquarie University are progressing well with this project and should complete their investigation by 20 November. Council has agreed to cease using the mechanical beach rake until that time.

b. Designated swimming zone:

Councillor Griffin reported that Council has resolved to investigate creating a designated swimming zone in Cabbage Tree Bay as recommended by this Committee and supported by the Fairy Bower Precinct Community Forum.

c. Dogs

The committee requests that the General Manager ask the Council Rangers to ensure that there are no dogs going into the water or on the rocks in the Cabbage Tree Bay because it is an Aquatic Reserve where it is an offence to damage or disturb marine habitat.

d. Signage

The Cabbage Tree Bay Working Group which includes NSW Fisheries has been investigating a number of ideas to reduce the incidence of fishing in this No-take Aquatic Reserve, these include regulatory signage at the Reserve's three entry points, the Divers' Fish sightings Chalkboard at the boat ramp and other successful ideas elsewhere.

ITEM 10 UPDATE ON SIGNAGE ON SEAGRASS AND SEAHORSE ISSUES IN MANLY COVE SENSITIVE MARINE AREA

The seagrass friendly mooring buoys have been installed but it is not clear what signage RMS will install. The committee's recommendations have been passed on to Fisheries, including information about educationally successful signage used in St. Andrews' Bay Florida.

As regards the signage to be installed by Council on the pool enclosure, RMS and Fisheries have recommended that "Sensitive Marine Environment" should be used on the signs.

ITEM 11 GARIGAL NATIONAL PARK MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL

Not discussed.

ITEM 12 General Business brought to the Attention of the Chair Prior to the Meeting and Approved for Consideration.

Nil.

ITEM 13 NEXT MEETING DATE:

Date: Wednesday, 13 November, 2013.

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: Councillors' Room, Manly Council Chambers

Meeting closed at 8.40pm.



NOTES OF MEETING

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

HELD THURSDAY 15 AUGUST, 2013

Members of the Community Environment Committee gathered on Thursday, 15 August, 2013 to consider the matters referred to it, however there was no quorum at the meeting. Notes of the discussions held are contained here. The items listed on the Agenda for this meeting will be included on the Agenda for the next scheduled meeting on Wednesday, 11 September, 2013.

PRESENT:

Councillors

Councillor Cathy Griffin

Manly Council

Other Representatives

Karen Pitt

Penguin Warden

Michella Burgers

Community Member

Natasha Hammond-Deakin

Community Member

Jan Ritchie

Community Member

Council Staff

Judy Reizes

Manager, Manly Environment Centre

ABSENT:

Councillor Hugh Burns, Susan Buchan, Diana Deeley, Jacqueline French, Lloyd Keen, Keelah Lam, Neil Ohlbach and David Thomas.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Committee meeting held 10 July, 2013 were discussed.

REPORT - MANLY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE REPORT ON CURRENT ACTIVITIES AND LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The report circulated with the Agenda was spoken to by the Manager of the MEC. Councillor Griffin reported that a report on the Relocation of MEC was presented to the Council Planning and Strategy Meeting of 5 August. The report concluded that Council is endeavouring to negotiate a long term lease with the owner of the existing building in Belgrave Street which would provide additional time to investigate options for the future of the MEC.

It was resolved that:

- i. the report be received and noted
- ii. Council further explore the possibility of the MEC occupying the Raglan Street site and
- iii. A budget bid be prepared for 2014/5 to formally catalogue information held at the MEC to make the titles catalogued available on line.

Committee members attended the Science at the Steyne evening last night to see the movie "Shark Harbour" and heard Scientist Amy Smoothie talk about her research and answer questions. Local filmmaker Jon Shaw also joined in Q and A. This night which was held as part of the enrichment program for the Cabbage Tree Bay Volunteers was a fantastic success and the evening was booked out. Thanks to the MEC for organising the event.

Through the Virtual Excursions Australia program which operates through the Australian Museum, MEC staff showed the MEC Cabbage Tree Bay video to 110 students from Ballarat and another country school. SIMS Marine Scientist and the MEC staff answered student questions via video conferencing facilities at the Museum.

BURNT BRIDGE CREEK TOUR WITH CHRIS KRAUS

The Committee preferred the date of 14 October proposed by Chris Kraus for this tour. Judy Reizes to liaise with Chris and the Committee.

PENGUINS AT MANLY WHARF

The penguin representative reported on the two pairs of penguins currently at the Wharf habitat area, with at least one pair is sitting on eggs.

There may be a fifth penguin prospecting in the area.

Since the stormwater system was repaired, this will be the first season without the stormwater 'creek' running under the wharf.

Dogs off leash continue to remain a problem. A dog was reported to have been running along the bush on Saturday night.

CABBAGE TREE BAY

a. Sand Migration at Shelly Beach

One of the Professors from UTS made a site visit to Shelly Beach with members of the Friends of Cabbage Tree Bay Working Group to suggest monitoring ideas.

The MEC has been approached by Macquarie University for a 10 week student project and three experienced students will investigate the causes of the sand migration at Shelly Beach. It is hoped that during this time Council will cease using the mechanical beach rake so that its impacts can be monitored.

b.. Designated Swimming Zone

The Committee requests that Council investigate creating a 'designated swimming zone' in Cabbage Tree Bay between Shelly Beach and Bower Beach. This would be adjacent to the International Surfing Reserve. The Swimming area off Balmoral Beach and Chinaman's Beach have been designated by the RMS as "designated swimming zones" and therefore prohibiting vessels using the area.

c. Dogs

The committee would like the rangers to ensure that there are no dogs going into the water or on the rocks because it is an Aquatic Reserve.

SYDNEY WATER NORTH HEAD SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT ODOUR MANAGEMENT PROJECT

a. Community Report on Presentation by Consultants at Community Consultative Meeting of 14

b. August, 2013

Long-term Community Member of the North Head Sewage Treatment Plant Community Consultative Committee, Bev Trevenan submitted the following notes from their meeting of 14 August, 2013:

"Just a few points from the North Head Plant Community Consultative Committee meeting yesterday on plant odours as there was no Council person present.

Modelling and odour contour discussed, and some temporary monitoring results shown. Members of the Alliance (six or seven) and Sydney Water outnumbered the community.

Biotrickling to reduce odours will be installed at North Head plant, a process that eliminates the use of chemicals with scrubbers. The REF will be available in September. Biotrickling was introduced in 1960 in North America – New Zealand Manukau about 25 years ago. It was also an option in the Water board/NSW Government 1991-92 Options for Coastal Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade.

Sydney Water said they had advised Sydney Harbour Federation Trust not to allow a hotel to operate on the sanctuary site and went on to say that if a hotel was operating there and encountered odour problems from the plant, they would have to pay for any odour mitigation. Also, there was an odour at the plant yesterday and it was described as being minimally worse than what can occur one kilometre from the plant. I realise that the Alliance contract is to 'reduce'

Odours at the plant but smelling the odour yesterday and the statement above, my reaction was shock horror.

At the meeting of North Head Wastewater Treatment Plant Community Consultative Committee on 24 July 2013, Sydney Water's Managing Director informed the meeting that Sydney Water was comfortable operating the plant to EPA's licence standards for concentration of pollutants, solids, oil and grease to the ocean that have not changed since 1976. Though 70% of solids and 75% of oil and grease inflow to the plant for the year ended 2011 went to the ocean there was no need for an upgrade or secondary treatment as the East Australian current disperses the pollutants. It was commented that Sydney Water does not have authority for an upgrade at the plant, the NSW Government's EPA has that authority."

c. Presentation on REF for Replacement of North Head Scrubbers by Odour Management Consultants at the next meeting.

Further to representations on behalf of this Committee, Sydney Water has agreed for the Consultants to make a comprehensive presentation followed by questions, at our next meeting on Wednesday 11 September at 7.15pm.

Other stakeholders will be invited to attend.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Date: Wednesday 11 September, 2013

Time: 7 pm

Venue: Councillors' Room, Manly Town Hall, 1 Belgrave Street, Manly.

This discussion closed at 8.55pm.