

Fairy Bower Precinct

AUGUST 2016 NEWSLETTER

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NEXT FAIRY BOWER COMMUNITY FORUM MEETING:

Wednesday 3rd August 2016, 7pm start, St. Patricks College.



Where is the Water??? The above image shows the current state of our Fairy Bower Pool, which is under maintenance. The pool was built by residents in 1929. The pool has Commonwealth heritage status, as it is on the Register of the National Estate (RNE103479). The sculpture was added in 2007 but was broken during the storm, however as per the press coverage, it is planned to have it restored. The missing piece has been retrieved and is currently held by the Manly Art Gallery.

For our August meeting this newsletter will outline the issues with the Fairy Bower Pool so that everyone can be clear what is involved. [See page 3.](#)

Welcome to All Fairy Bower Residents

NEWS

Firstly a big thanks to all those residents who contacted me to express their support for continuing our Fairy Bower Community Precint Forum. Your support encourages our efforts.

I attended the Northern Beaches Council *Local Representation Committee* meeting held on the 20th July 2016. This is the forum where all the former Manly, Warringah and Pittwater Councillors meet with the Northern Beaches Council senior staff, to receive presentations and ask questions about what is going on regarding the new Council and the amalgamation process.

This meeting was useful for Fairy Bower Precinct residents - firstly because it was the first time a staff member - *Jane Mulroney* - stood up and said to all present that the *Manly*

Issues and reports for the August Meeting will include:-

- ◆ *Marine Parade Walkway reopening*
- ◆ *Fairy Bower Pool*
- ◆ *Ferry Tourist Ticketing*
- ◆ *Bower Street Development*
- ◆ *General Business*

Community Precinct Forums are to continue and will be formally recognised by the new Council and engaged. She expressed the view that "they need to continue as social capital that represents their community". The only issue is what level of staff resources the new Council is prepared to offer. *Beth Lawson* stated she was not in a position to replicate the level of staff resourcing previously given by Manly Council to its community precinct forums. So while we will gain recognition, the level of resourcing is still work in progress.

Marine Parade Reopening

Secondly it gave me the opportunity at the end of the meeting to call together all the former Manly Councillors and ask staff member *Beth Lawson* to give us all a briefing on the Marine Parade walkway repairs. *Ms Lawson* advised :-

- ◆ As at the 19th July Sydney Water have completed their sewer repair work and Council have taken possession of the Marine Parade walkway site
- ◆ All the dislodged sandstone block capping/edging is to be retrieved from the water and replaced in position.
- ◆ The path will then be reinstated, followed by the post and rail fencing, the seating, and the small sandstone walls on the cliff side of the walkway.
- ◆ It is currently planned to have the path open to the public by around the 18th of August.

An inspection of Marine Parade today (Friday) confirms the restoration works are proceeding well and are being done to



Just The Ticket The ticket facilities currently on the western side of Manly Wharf. The ticket windows have magnetic stripe ticket issuing Booking Office Machines (BOMs). One the side are the two open (undated) credit card operated magnet-stripe Ticket Vending Machines (TVMs) and next to them is the new Opal single ticket and Opal card recharge machine.

a high standard by our Council staff.

The pool is a separate project which will follow on after completion of Marine Parade. Currently tenders for the pool repair works have been previously called by Manly Council, but as at the 20th July no tender for the works has yet been awarded. I successfully moved a motion, that was passed by Manly Council, to repair restore the pool (while retaining its heritage look) in November 2015. These works were also included in Council's annual works budget. Precinct member Robyn Hall, a passionate supporter of our tidal pool, also spoke in support at that meeting.

All Ferry Ticket Sales By Staff To End On 31st July

Most residents who use public transport will probably have Opal Cards by now. Those of us still using and holding supplies of the older magnetic-stripe tickets - such as TravelTens and MyMulti (previously TravelPass) periodicals would be a very select group. All non-single tickets were withdrawn from sale at the end of December last year. However single and return tickets have continued to be sold by staff to occasional travellers and particularly tourist visitors to Manly.

However from Monday the 1st of August not only do all magnetic-strip tickets become invalid, but all ticket sales will be by machine only. The good news is single-use Opal tickets are now sold by machine (Adult and Child only, no concessions), but the bad news is if you are unfamiliar with the machines or uncertain about what you need in ticketing it will be hard to get help.

Could you imagine David Jones with no shop assistants and only self-checkouts for the public to pay for their purchases?

The booking office staff don't just sell tickets - they provide

information and assist unfamiliarity. Tourists ask questions like "a ticket to Manly Beach", "when does the next one leave?", "where does the ferry to Luna Park leave from?". A Ticket Vending Machine can't help with these matters. There remains a need for customer service.

The demand for Booking Office ticket sales (and thus need for sales windows) has certainly declined due to the introduction of the Opal Card, but the demand for human ticket sales, while lower, is not negligible to the point it should just be stopped. From my direct observations the assertion from Transport for NSW (TfNSW) on this matter, as reported in the press last week, that there is no need for staff ticket sales is just wishful "spin".

The end result is that TfNSW needs to order staff operated Opal BOM (Booking Office Machine) ticket equipment for key tourist locations

(e.g. like Circular Quay and Manly). Probably one machine at Manly and two at Circular Quay would be sufficient.

We must remember that if people and tourists are put off coming to Manly, due to lack of info or assistance to get here, its not only bad for the ferry service (and taxpayers) but particularly its bad for the tourist business of Manly.

What does everybody think?

North Head Sewage Plant and Truck Odours

As you would have seen in the press, Council via the Manly Environment Centre and Manly Council's Community Environment Committee have been involved in working with Sydney Water to reduce the odour impact of the North Head Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) and the associated solid waste trucks on our local community.

As chair of the Manly's Community Environment Committee, we continue to meet as a Community Committee. Before the amalgamation proclamation we held two odour forums involving Sydney Water representative, precinct executives and residents.

We have identified the key issue is the technical need for two more "digesters" at the plant that make the solids less odourous. We have also determined that it is the Independent Pricing And Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) that is blocking Sydney Water's capital upgrade plans to install two more digesters at their North Head plant.

Consequently I put up a motion, passed by fellow Councillors in May 2016 for Manly Council to write to the Premier (our local member) to ensure two digesters were funded by the government regardless of IPART's decision, to reduce the impact of the plant on nearby residents.

At the request of the MEC, Council's IT staff also wrote a web page to enable everyone to easily and quickly record odour complaints.

If you smell any sewage odours please report and log them at <http://sniffandsubmit.com/> This page will work from mobile devices and is smart, so you can log a report some time after you smelt it (just note the time).

The best was to build a case for action is providing evidence of a problem. This web page is run by Council and is independent of the government and Sydney Water.

Fairy Bower Pool

We all owe Robyn Hall a vote of thanks for her continuing energy on this local icon.

The pool has needed attention for around 10 years now. Back then I recall we spent a whole Precinct meeting reviewing Council's (then) plans to modernise and fence the pool. We collectively advised this was rather different from what the precinct members actually wanted ("a light touch"). Obviously had the work of installing the stainless steel and glass fencing and wooden deck been done back then, it would probably all have been swept away in the recent storms.

The major issue with the pool from the users' perspective is the deteriorating concrete on the pool surround edges/walkways and the poor state of the pool bottom at the deeper end. The pool was carved out of the rock in 1929 and the interior rock is lined with a light concrete screed (thin top layer covering the rock).

The issue currently to be resolved is how to repair the bottom of the pool at the deep end. The problem other than the surface roughness when you are standing within the pool, is the bottom is not water tight. Thus the pump has to run continuously to keep the pool full of water, and when the pool is emptied water slowly leaks in when the tide is higher than the bottom of the pool.

The problem is the pool is at best



Above: The Pool under construction on 27th November 1929 (*Manly Library Local Studies Collection*). **Below:** The pool floor with works needed lower end.

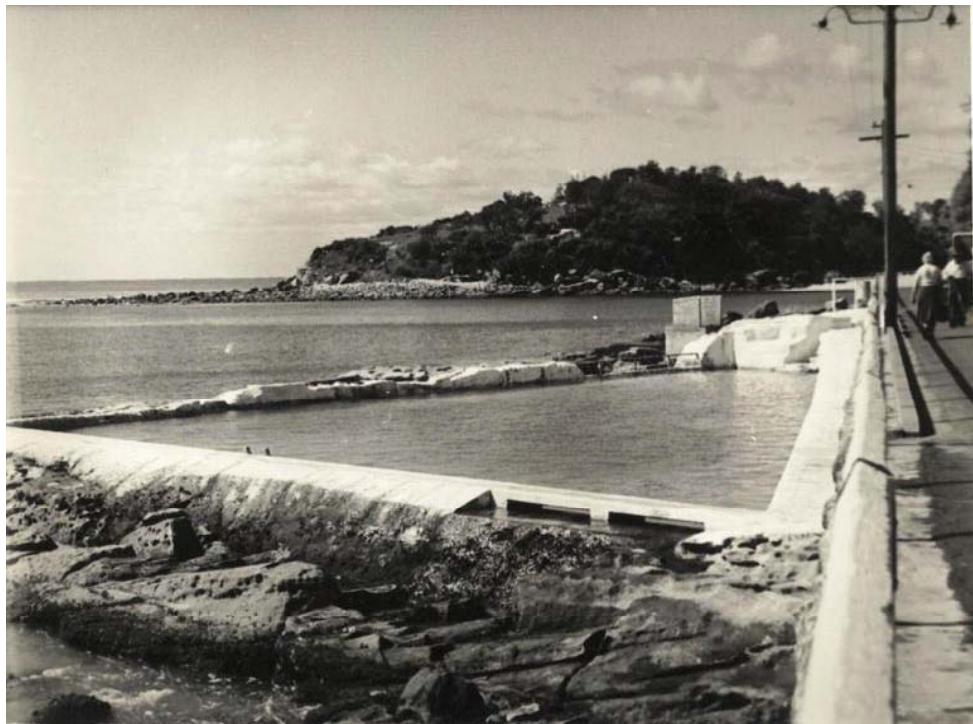


The end wall of the pool showing the limited water depth with little capacity for any reduction, and the edge topping coming loose and needing replacement.

shallow, even at the deep end. The concern is that Council staff's initial proposal to put 100-150mm of reinforced concrete on top of the bottom, over the existing deteriorating finish which would reduce the depth of the pool or would see the need for changes to height of the weir and edging to retain the current depth. This could considerably change the appearance of the pool.

The alternative would be to use power tools to remove material from the deep end bottom, so the new cement lining can be about the same finished height as the existing bottom. The concern with this is how to reseal the bottom water tight (e.g. by grout injection) before the cement lining is installed.

So what do all think? What should we ask Council to do?



The Fairy Bower Pool as it appeared in 1964. (Manly Library Local Studies Collection).

Bower Street Subdivisions

There is currently a proposal to subdivide 32 Bower Street into three smaller blocks each containing a house. This is the block next to the reserve containing the steps from Bower Street down to Shelley Beach (on the Fairy Bower side). The impact of such a proposal extended to other blocks at this end of Bower Street would be a considerably change in the character of this end of the street. It is a matter of weighing up a balance of the owner's rights to develop their land, verses the community and public's interest.

For information, the land on the water side of this part of the street is zoned E3 "Environmental management" and the minimum block size is 500m2.

What does everybody think? Would the owners of property in this end of Bower Street care to talk about the matter at our August meeting?

So want to meet new people and get involved in community matters? Come and join us 3rd August 7:00pm at the ICMS (St Patricks College).

Hugh Burns
0435 407 257

Need Help?

Council Rangers: 9976 1633

Manly Police: 9976 8099

Cabbage Tree Bay Issues

Fisheries: 8437 4903

'Eco Divers' Dave: 0421 334 529

24/7 Fishers Watch hotline: 1800 043 536

Water Police: 9320 7499

Sydney Water Odour Complaints

<http://sniffandsubmit.com/>

Sydney Water Complaints: 132 090

Now Showing at the Manly Art Gallery & Museum

BIMBLEBOX: ART - SCIENCE - NATURE 1 July - 4 September

A touring exhibition showcasing an artist group's creative response to their experience of the unique Bimblebox Nature Refuge. Under threat from the devastation of coal mining, the artists have developed provocative artworks that bear witness to this beautiful and protected refuge. This informative exhibition reflects the tensions between mining, conservation and consumption and is explored through installation, works on paper, painting, artists' books, digital storytelling and sound.