

FAIRY BOWER NEWS

Fairy Bower Precinct Community Forum Newsletter. Issue 5, 2008



Your next precinct meeting is:

Wednesday June 11th at 7:30pm

Venue: Manly Surf Lifesaving Club (upstairs), South Steyne.

(Come earlier at 7:15, if you like and view 'Tell Us A Story' - see page 3 for details)

PLEASE TURN TO PAGE TWO & THREE – TO 'HAVE YOUR SAY!' – & SEE COMMUNITY PHOTOS

PLEASE NOTE: This month our Precinct meeting is on a Wednesday instead of a Monday, and is the second week of the month instead of the first. We hope to see you there in full force.

From Your Chair: Our May meeting covered a variety of matters. We also had 13 Development Applications (DAs). This is a large number in comparison to the norm. It may therefore be useful to outline brief details on the existing DA process.

The DA Process: Firstly, developments in Precincts are generally controlled by Council, who follow the requirements specified in the NSW Local Government Act. The process involves notifying surrounding residents of a DA, and assessing it against the planning, development rules & guidelines. The assessment is currently a 'democratic process' involving the scrutinizing of proposals by public officials and elected Councillors. This process allows Precinct Review, and looking at DAs with the perspective of the community. The Precinct's views are then included in the Council staff's assessment for each proposal. The Precinct looks at the affect on the streetscape (e.g. how it looks from the street), anything out of the ordinary likely to impact on residents (e.g. large excavations/truck traffic), and whether it may set a precedent for the area (e.g. allowing larger than normal developments).

The planning 'rules' document is the Local Environment Plan (LEP), and the second more detailed interpretive document is the

Development Control Plan (DCP). The second document is not mandatory and its requirements are a guide only. Currently, if an applicant (or an objector) of a DA is not satisfied with Council's determination, they can take the matter to the Land and Environment Court to have it reviewed. This is a costly process for everyday residents.

Thirteen DAs were reviewed at the last meeting. Seven were for detached houses as part of the continuing Montpelier Place (St. Patrick's Estate) development, two were for the Stockland Totem redevelopment (sent to all precincts) and four were 'normal' precinct DAs. We made comments on 11, and only had objections on two, one of these was a Totem matter. There is however much more to Precinct meetings than DAs ...

Other Matters Discussed At the Precinct Meeting: We also discussed the proposed extension of the North Harbour Aquatic Reserve, with Council seeking community support for this extension. Secondly, our rep from the Surf Club's Liaison Working Group reported back and noted plans were being drafted to expand the South Steyne Surf Club (also our meeting venue), with an estimated cost of \$2.9 million. An update was given on Precinct initiated Council projects, indicating these were to be deferred to the 2008/9 financial year. However separate later correspondence suggested the Bower-Reddall walkway might be close to implementation, (hopefully we will have more on this soon).

(Chair letter continued from overleaf)

It seems however, that the Fairy Bower Pool will be deferred to 2009. Residents had hoped it would be done during Winter 2008.

Through general discussion, we discovered the reason for the absence of the St. Patrick's bells. Apparently one of the bells is currently cracked! There was also discussion on the parties being held, and the use of barbecues at Shelly Beach. Visitors, noise, mess, and difficulties in sharing access to barbecue equipment were discussed. Options raised ranged from signage (outlining cooking times and clean up "directly after use" instructions), through to enforcement by Council. Installing more barbecues and/or spreading BBQs out, were some of the suggestions put forward. This is a matter that needs community input, so discussion was deferred to our June 11 meeting.

Kind Regards
Hugh Burns (Chair)
Fairy Bower Precinct Community Forum

Have Your Say!

*Send comments and concerns to the editor
Munro.Communicaitons@bigpond.com*

Mail

The Ongoing Saga of the Shelly Beach BBQ Area

In the March newsletter we had photos of lots of litter and shopping trolleys left at Shelly Beach. In the April newsletter we had a complaint regarding Shelly Beach BBQs. In May we had another letter and another request to Council for action regarding the BBQ situation. We are heading into Winter for the June newsletter, but the situation remains the same.

Residents living above Shelly Beach are reporting parties starting on BBQs at 4pm and still going at bedtime. Another resident sent photos opposite this month. That particular week they were IH students. The previous two weeks they were International Students from St Patrick's College.

Two months ago a resident reported a Coles shopping trolley in the grounds of St Patrick's College. Another resident saw a group of young people pulling it up the hill. Last month we showed photos of people barbecuing, abandoned BBQs with debris all over them & shopping trolleys full of food parked alongside BBQs. People in photos seemed to follow cooking lists, which makes you wonder if it is part of the curriculum at these international colleges and language school. Need we say more!

The Mayor is looking into issues at a very general level & has queried signs with cooking & clean up times, but this will still need to monitored and without any lights in the area, can they read the signs? – (even if they are in 5+ different languages)?

Currently large groups stand around BBQs, using them as tables, as there are NO tables in the area making it impossible for others to use them. Spread out BBQs would deter group formation.



Students
pictured: from
Japan, Brazil,
Switzerland &
Columbia,
attend IH
(International
House)
Language
School in
Darley Road.

Several weeks before this, similar groups were from the **International College at St Patrick's**. They go to Shelly Beach in an ongoing & organized fashion. IH students say they do it every Wednesday and Saturday from 4pm onward. **NB in the photos:** BBQs are used as tables when finished cooking. They are covered in plastic beer packs and cans of beer. BBQs clustered all together encourage large groups to form, staying all night. There are no other BBQs in the area. They leave mess on BBQs tops and do not have the option to move to tables – because there are NO tables in the area. Often they abandon filthy barbeques and possums sit eating their food, as they disappear to the sand for a place to sit. Currently no one else can get on BBQs clustered together like this.

Lighting The Bower Street Steps

Dear Editor, The point I was making at last months meeting was the lack of lighting in the second half of the steps leading from the surf club up to Bower Street. There is an arc light at the middle landing which lights up the first half of the steps and also the steps leading to Reddall Street. However there is no such light available for the second half of the steps to Bower St., and it is something of a black hole. I would like to suggest that the Committee considers requesting another arc light pointing in the direction of Bower Street.

Many thanks, Bruce Murtagh, Bower St.

It was also noted at the last Precinct meeting – leakage from the Borambil stairs, creating stagnant water puddles.

Community Profile



Charlie Campbell, Addison Rd.

A colourful character residing 21 years on the Bower, is 82 year old Charlie Campbell, who has been a Fairy Bower Precinct Secretary on four occasions over the last seven years.

Charlie grew up in Rose Bay and retired to Manly in 1986. Graduating from Med School in 1950, Charlie was at Sydney Hospital before accepting a registrar position at Brisbane General Hospital. In 1953, Charlie headed to Papua New Guinea with his young wife and child of nine months. Located for six months in Sohano (in the passage between Buka and Bougainville Islands) and 15 months in Lae, he later took up a position at Port Moresby General Hospital.

In the interim Charlie took 12 months off to travel to the UK, becoming a member of the Royal College of Physicians in both London and Edinburgh. He also researched the formalities of snakebites, and later completed an MD in the area.

After ten years in New Guinea, Charlie returned to Sydney as Associate Professor in Tropical Medicine at the University of Sydney and visiting specialist at St Vincent's, to which the only candidates for tropical diseases at the time, were Vietnam soldiers on R&R in Kings Cross, presenting with malaria and scrub typhus.

Reacclimatizing back to public transport and Australia, Charlie says he forgot about the ferry network and looked for properties to purchase on the train line, ending up in Killara.

After ten years of academia, Charlie and his wife moved to Alice Springs and back into hospital medicine. After ten more years there, family requests saw him return to Sydney and purchase a 1912 character home in Manly's Addison Road, where he still resides today with his wife, their Airedale Terrier and their little Schitzu.

Charlie describes Manly as "Gods Own Country." While this conjures up images of sand, ocean and harbour views, Charlie is quick to qualify his love of the bush. "In Manly there is native bush impinging so closely to where we live, it is a treat to have both bush and sea in your backyard."

Charlie's quiet and humble manner and love of open spaces is evident in his demeanor and his description of Manly. He comments on St Patrick's Estate, and how it opened up an area of "beautiful paper bark trees" that would have not otherwise been seen. However, he does not hesitate to note that one of the changes to Fairy Bower in recent years is the constant noise of development. "Buildings have come down and garages have disappeared," says Charlie. What Charlie does advocate however, is the refurbishing of the Fairy Bower Pool and a few additions around the street for the "fragile elderly." In particular he would like to see seats at the bottom of Bower Street, after the two sets of stairs and ramp it takes to get there

..... Charlie would also love to see a couple of park benches on the soon to be completed Bower to Reddall Street walkway. Charlie was disappointed to hear the Fairy Bower Pool will not be refurbished till 2009, noting how dangerous the bottom of the pool has become and the need of a rail on at least 1.5 sides of the pool for safety issues. This he says "will allow more frail people to use the pool." Charlie was disappointed to hear that the "artificial rock pool" between the pool and the exposed pipe, was not to be covered. He finds the pool stagnant and unsightly and feels it limits places to sit by having this area exposed.

At the Precinct level, Charlie would love to see a larger group attending, and a community that is interested in neighbourhood watch, interaction and helping each other. "We all live alone in our own homes. Some people can die and not be found in the house beside you for eight months or more in some communities. It would be nice to see a more collective approach in this community and an interest in the needs of the elderly," comments Charlie.

Thanks to Charlie for participating in this column. I had to twist his arm to do it – The Editor.



Local residents, **Arthur Cullen & Mary Carter**, enjoy a traditional Sunday swim in the Fairy Bower pool. They were sad to hear the pool will not be refurbished till 2009. Currently, they find it difficult to walk on the rutted floor and look forward to the handrail

addition. Mary noted that pumped in water, constantly rushes out before it has time to circulate, needing a higher wall in that part. Mary is also concerned that the rail stops before the end of the stairs (at Shelly end), where a man was badly hurt last month.

NEXT PRECINT MEETING

'Tell Us A Story' - The National View - 1960s and 1970s. A slide show of postcards from the long gone Murfett Publishers (Melbourne). Manly Ferries, Hydrofoils and Manly and Sydney landmarks from the 1960s and 1970s. **All welcome to come early to next Precinct meeting (7:15pm) to see this.**

From Manly Council Committees:

Manly Neighbourhood Renewal / Meet Your Street

Programme: Meeting held 19 March 2008 – Manly Council's target was to have 15 to 20 street parties in 07/08. 24 were held. 19 were organized to celebrate Christmas and five to celebrate Australia Day. The parties have been a positive method of generating community spirit and building interactive neighborhoods. Party attendees found these events gave them a social avenue to meet neighbours, create friendships and assist with an increased a feeling of security in the street.

Council would like to encourage more streets on the Eastern Hill and in Seaforth to have street parties. They would also like to see parties spread across the year. As the organizer of the last Cliff/Reddall Street party, held just before Christmas, I can say the minimal time it takes to organize, is more than repaid with the turnout and positive feedback. Even though the weather turned on us last year with thunder, lightning and torrential rain, we managed to start our party on the street then move to one of our friendly resident's homes to continue our party. A great evening for all.

Report from: Lisa Kable

The Cabbage Tree Bay (CTB) Aquatic Reserve

Management Planning meeting – We were briefed on the results of recent research on CTB, as well as issues identified by DPI Fisheries and Council Rangers. Over the last few months, the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) has been undertaking research to identify use of the CTB Aquatic Reserve and seek community input into a new Management Plan.

110 submissions were received from users of CTB and included:

- Boating – the need to address safety/environmental impacts
- Compliance and signage – the need to address illegal fishing
- Pollution – the need to address issues relating to storm-water run-off and littering
- Regulation of general use – organized events and scuba activities

The Council Ranger explained the main problem with compliance is not having access to a boat. If there is a fishing boat in CTB, all a ranger can do is yell from the shore and call DPI. The DPI rep said that they regularly patrol the Aquatic Reserve in marked boats and uniforms and unmarked boats and plain clothes. Some concern was expressed by members of the Working Group regarding response time of DPI and due to access issues, the inability of rangers to effectively curb illegal activity from boats within the CTB, during the day and night. The Working Group is currently assessing strategies to increase awareness of the regulations of CTB to improve compliance.

Report from: Skye Nettleton

McGrath

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DAs Discussed At Next Precinct Meeting:

Manly Civic Club redevelopment (involving the Auckland Garage heritage building) at 2 West Promenade – (sent to all Precincts due to heritage issue)