

FAIRY BOWER NEWS

Fairy Bower Precinct Community Forum Newsletter. Issue 3, 2008



Your next precinct meeting is the AGM on:

Monday 7th April at 7:30pm

Please all attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM)

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

From Your Chair

Our Annual General Meeting is to take place this month - at 7:30pm in the Manly Surf Lifesaving Club on Monday 7 April. I will be stepping down from the Chair and all other positions will be declared vacant. There are indications that several people, including past and present office bearers, will allow themselves to be nominated so PLEASE come along to offer your support and to vote.



Fairy Bower Pool - sculpture & snorkelers beyond.

Fairy Bower Pool DA

A matter dear to the hearts of many residents of Fairy Bower will be raised at the April meeting after the AGM proceedings are completed. Fairy Bower pool is about to be refurbished. The latest DA which Council has prepared is to be discussed at this meeting.

(See overleaf for additional information)

NSW DECC and Cabbage Tree Bay

The steering committee for a state government management plan for Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve (CTBAR) will meet for the first time on 9th April. Several members of our community have been invited to participate on this body.

If you have something to say please do not hesitate to offer your views as a submission. Your thoughts about the future management of the marine reserve can be presented as a few brief sentences or in as greater detail as you like. Please mail to Dr Tracey MacDonald, Operations Co-ordinator, Aquatic Protected Areas, NSW DECC, Locked Bag 1, Nelson Bay NSW 2315.

Many thanks to everyone who took the time to fill in the community survey on CTB last month.

(Letter continued from the Chair ...)

Unacceptable levels of amplified sound

We protested in writing to the new general manager of the International College of Management, Mr Frank Prestipino, about the extremely noisy event which was held on Saturday 1st March in the grounds of the College. The amplified sound severely disturbed many residents. We are still awaiting his formal reply.

I have enjoyed my year in the Chair and will continue to represent the community on *Manly Council's Coastline Management Committee*. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to 2007-08 being a great year in the Fairy Bower precinct.

Yours faithfully,

Jennifer Grant Jary (Chair)

Fairy Bower Precinct Community Forum

Jennifergrant.jary@bigpond.com

From Manly Council Committees

Fairy Bower (FB) Precinct is represented on several Council Committees. These include the *Coastline Management Committee*, the *Surf Clubs Liaison Working Group* and the *Neighbourhood Renewal Committee*.

The *Surf Clubs Liaison Working Group* met last month to discuss issues relating to the three surf clubs, North Steyne, Queenscliff and Manly Surf Club. Members from each club spoke in turn about their individual issues. Upkeep of facilities and funding were discussed. Council assists in maintenance, but there is also a need for funds.

It was also discussed that there are only two posted areas on the beach to swim within flags. It was suggested that another spot near the North Steyne Club, could service the many people who enter the beach from the Corso. This is an issue for the Life Guard Group to resolve.

Manly Surf Club is in the process of submitting a DA for alterations. This will be submitted in April or May and presented to the Fairy Bower Precinct.

Noise on the beaches at night and helicopters during special events was also discussed. It was explained that clubs have no say in helicopters, even though it is considerable noise pollution, because their presence is to cover events.

Manly Surf Club said they will attempt to meet the needs of FB precinct meetings on the first Monday of each month except December and January. Their demands for space are considerable with life saving classes and other meetings.

In attendance was the Mayor Peter Macdonald, Councillor Jo Evans, Beth Lawson, members from each surf club and **Larry Smith, representing the Fairy Bower Precinct.**

Fairy Bower Pool

Manly Council is proposing to refurbish the Fairy Bower Pool located on Marine Parade. The current plan involves replacing about 60% of the uneven rocky pool bottom at the deep end with a concrete slab (installed to the same level) and cement re-covering of all walkways around the pool.

The top of the storm water pipe leading up to the pool (from the direction of Bower Lane), is also to be given a new cement top to make it easier to walk on.

There is also a stainless-steel hand rail to be installed just above water level on the high walkway (Marine Parade) side of the pool and replacement of the outlet valve and sump on the Ocean side corner, to facilitate emptying the pool for cleaning.

The latest revised proposal retains the rock pool and does not add any more fencing around the perimeter of the pool.

All residents are encouraged to attend the next precinct meeting on Monday April 7, to see the Council's plans and comment on the proposed design.

A few slides illustrating the pool as it currently is will also be shown at the meeting.

Fairy Bower Pool Report from Hugh Burns

Hugh is the Fairy Bower Precinct D.A. Adviser



Fairy Bower Pool

Photo courtesy of: Hugh Burns

TRIVIA: From Wikipedia. Manly Life Saving Club is one of Australia's oldest, founded in 1903 after a law banning daylight swimming was overturned. The founding President of the club was James Bonner, also then Mayor of Manly. A past club President was actor Tony Bonner, grandson of James Bonner. Manly, Bondi and Bronte all claim to be the first life saving club in Australia (and the world), and the debate continues.

Mail



Have Your Say!

Email your comments, enquiries and community concerns to the newsletter editor:
munro.communications@bigpond.com

COMPLAINT REGARDING SHELLY BEACH BARBEQUES ...

We moved to Manly last year and bought a property right near the beach. Whilst the location is wonderful, like many apartments it has no backyard and an extremely small kitchen.

We bought it however, knowing that it was just a short walk to Shelly Beach, where I imagined we could do a grill or outdoor barbeque here and there. Being used to a backyard and barbeque at the last home, I had hoped to do this at least once or twice a week.

The reality is that only ONCE over summer have we been able to use a BBQ at Shelly Beach. It's absolutely impossible on weekends to get on to either barbeque. Even early in the week large groups of South American and European visitors/residents congregate there and monopolize the facilities from late afternoon to late at night bringing bulk food and alcohol in shopping trolleys supplied by Coles.

I do not have an issue with individuals or even groups of people, local or otherwise, using the facilities. However *these should be available for everyone to use* and not just the large groups that find Shelly Beach an ideal meeting & party venue.

The cooking and rubbish disposal facilities are clearly inadequate for the number of people using the area. The barbeques are left dirty and with food on them which attracts wildlife and vermin. There is also considerable rubbish left around the area and overflowing from bins for Council to frequently clean up.

There are no rules for the use and cleaning of the barbeques or disposal of rubbish in the area. As a consequence groups of people spend all night using the barbeques and don't clean up after themselves making it impossible for others to get on them at any stage of the evening.

As a minimum, could not signs be placed around the barbeques with a 15-30 minute cooking time allowed? and a BIG request to clean up directly after cooking? (Bearing in mind signs will need to be written in English, Italian AND definitely Spanish!!).

It would be nice to think that something could be done by Council so that local residents and ratepayers can occasionally put a piece of fish, a snag or even the odd raw prawn on the barbie!

Thank you for publishing this letter in your newsletter.

From Mr M. Cooper – Bower Street

Received – 20 March, 2008.

Community Watch

Last month we showed photos of rubbish left at Shelly beach. This month there have been complaints from rate payers unable to get on BBQs, while groups and individuals stay cooking till late, leaving debris behind.



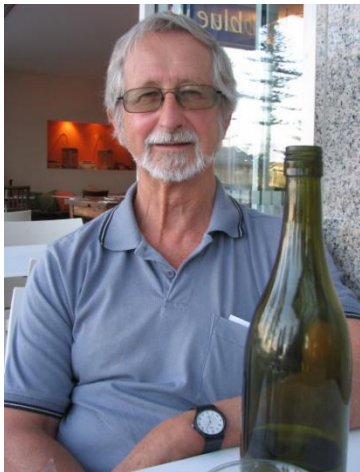
Groups arrive with shopping trolleys throughout the night, full of food and alcohol, and leave them behind.



Abandoned BBQs left like this, make it impossible for others to use.

Please send any photos and complaints to:
munro.communications@bigpond.com

Community Profile



Garry Pursell, College Street, Fairy Bower.

Garry grew up in Mosman with Manly beach in his backyard, and as a student he frequently visited. It would therefore seem logical that one day he might return.

Garry completed a PhD in Economics, teaching at Monash before taking a post at the *World Bank*, Washington DC. After 33 years, he returned with his Norwegian wife to Australia.

It was 2005 and 3 years after Cabbage Tree Bay (CTB), had been made a 'no take' aquatic reserve. "We swam, wore goggles and saw fish in abundance, and began to understand why so many divers were exploring and why locals had worked so hard to make it a reserve, lobbying against commercial fisherman and bureaucracy for 6 to 7 years." Like many Europeans, his wife preferred to be away from the surf, and Garry who loved surf, knew little about Shelly beach. "I was amazed when we discovered it. I'd been to many beaches in the world, but nothing like this. It's unique because it's an ocean beach, but faces inland, so it's sheltered but still close to a large city. It's an asset not only to Manly but for all of Sydney."

Yet like everything worthwhile, Garry says, "you have to be vigilant." He sees three threats. Powerboats, pollution and illegal fishing. "Pollution is caused by storm water run-off after heavy rain. High levels of E.coli have been found where children swim." Garry's concerns with boats in the area relates to their close proximity to swimmers/divers and the damage caused to the reserve through spillages and dragging anchors.

Garry recently volunteered on the DEEC survey, and spoke to people who'd regularly spotted fishing. A night-shift worker reported frequently seeing a fishing boat in the bay round 5am. People living above Marine Parade reported seeing frequent spear fishing off the reef and groups of 5 or 6 scraping shellfish of rocks late at night. Some had called the Maritime department, but boats and people had departed before their arrival, and others had no idea whom to call.

The Fairy Bower Precinct hopes that these issues will be dealt with following the DECC survey. **Garry is a visiting fellow with the Australia South Asia Research Centre (ASARC) at ANU, and writes about South Asia and India.**

Current Fairy Bower Precinct

Committee:

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