

Acknowledgement of Country

Manly Lagoon Friends acknowledge and respect the traditional owners of the land, the Gayemagal people, who called the wetlands of Manly Lagoon their home. We pay respect to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal people here.

May we always honour their knowledge and continuing connection to land, waters and community and continue to show that acknowledgement through the work that we do. It is our hope that there is an increased connection to place and country through our projects.

President welcome and introduction to guest speakers

Our community loves the water, land and space that we live in.

We are bike riders, kayakers, walkers, bird watchers, dog chasers, coffee drinkers, golf and other ball chasers, pram pushers, debaters and meditators, swimmers and surfers.

And we all love having the lagoon in our backyard.

I'm sure we all recognise the beauty of Manly as we welcome visitors to our home, where nature takes on an extra special meaning within a large city, holding enormous environmental, social, cultural and economic value. OS we have experienced places that touch us and give us an experience of wonder - we have such a place right here.

We have seen her in all her beauty at sunrise, at dusk, on a gentle blue sky day. We have also seen her in distress, especially during flood events with sewerage overflows, polluting debris and evacuated homes.

The lagoon has a deep history of people caring for it and advocating for it, and I acknowledge the work done before me.

I believe we share a vision of a healthier waterway with council, local government and community groups such as WSR. Whilst many of our actions and projects may seem small, it is through incremental changes that we manifest a larger vision. And it is through a cohesive sense of community and shared goals that this becomes a reality.

Northern Beaches Council **Towards 2040 Local Strategic Planning Statement** has as its 1st Sustainability Priority - Healthy and Valued Coast and Waterways. So it is with great pleasure to welcome from Council both Yianni Mentis, Executive Manager Environment & Climate Change, and Jason Ruszczyk, Senior Environment Officer in the Coast & Catchments team to speak tonight. Alice Harrison from the WRL will bring her expertise to join Jason's presentation.

They will be followed by our friend Murray Fraser from the Manly-Freshwater WSR and Tom Hazell will finish off with a beautiful presentation on the Waterbird Survey.

Questions are encouraged however we will try to stick to our timetable!

Guest speakers

Yianni - history and future/overview

Jason and Alice - 10 year MER & State of Play Reports

Murray F - Manly-Freshwater World Surfing Reserve

Tom H - Waterbird Survey

AGM - Official proceedings

1. Mel welcome members and guests.
2. Apologies noted - Sue Heins, Mayor. James Griffin, MP.
3. Mel report
4. Scott Financial report "any objection to taking the financial statement as read?"
5. Nominations for Executive Committee - state they are elected if only one candidate
 1. Mel Koeman - President
 2. Stephen (Jack) Lord - Vice President
 3. Scott Somerville - Treasurer
 4. Mark Kennedy - Secretary
 5. Michella Burgers - Membership Secretary
7. Other business - Thankyou to QSLSC
8. Close

President's Report

Since inception in March 2022, Manly Lagoon Friends has been actively engaging at community, council, state and federal level with the aim of a better lagoon for all.

At each point we have received the clear message that there is ***much*** that ***needs*** to be done for our highly urbanised, ecologically stressed waterway, but also that there is ***much*** that ***can*** be done to improve the lagoon and its environment that we all love and live with.

I would like to thank Northern Beaches Council for their commitment to building a relationship with myself and our association as we work towards achieving common goals, as well as James Griffin MP for his unwavering support for our vision.

It is the strength of our membership that can make things happen and I thank all our members for the vote of confidence you have given us by joining up.

In lieu of a multipage, detailed Presidents Report for the last 15 months activity, I refer you to the December 2022 and March 2023 Newsletters available on the website - [https:// www.manlylagoonfriends.org/news](https://www.manlylagoonfriends.org/news) . I encourage you to read these as they highlight the diverse issues affecting the lagoon, key areas we are focusing on and ways in which members can get involved. Some highlights of the last year include; 1. Funding from NSW Government delivered to council for new pedestrian and bike bridge at Pittwater road bridge. This work will include rehabilitation of riparian areas up and downstream of the bridge. 2. The start of a regular Bush Care group at Lagoon Park. 3. The start of a collaboration with Manly Golf Club to improve riparian vegetation management and habitat protection.

A special Thankyou to the founding members of the executive committee who have volunteered their skills and time to get this fledgling association up and running. This committee included: Stephen (Jack) Lord, Vice President; Scott Somerville, Treasurer; Jake Somerville, Secretary; Jen Mulveny, Membership Secretary.

I welcome our new Secretary, Mark Kennedy and Membership Secretary, Michella Burgers and look forward to making things happen in the year to come.

Treasurers Report for Manly Lagoon Friends for the 15 Months 1 April 2022 to 30 June 2023

Summary

1. *Equity*: The association had \$919.57 in equity as cash in bank at 30 June 2023
2. *Donations*: Northern Beaches Council Discretionary Funding \$500 received in August 2022 which was put towards the first year of website fees.
3. *Membership*: 81 members joined from inception to June 30, 2023, with an average amount paid of \$23.21
4. *Position*: Steady financial position will be maintained if all members continue to pay membership fees annually, however this allows for very little discretionary spending.

Profit and Loss Statement

Income from Membership Fees and Donations \$1,973.00
Contribution from NBC \$500.00
Total Income \$2,473.00

Less Expenditure
ASIC fees \$191.84
Domain name Registration \$59.40
Software Subscriptions \$517.17
Printing \$425.15
Materials for Clean Up Days \$97.17
Environmental Organisation Membership \$49.50
Transaction fees \$213.20
Total Expenditure \$1553.43

Net Surplus \$ 919.57
Balance Sheet as at 30 June 23
Member Funds \$919.57
Cash at bank Westpac **\$919.57**

Represented by Current Assets **Signed, Scott Somerville, Treasurer**