



## May 2023 Newsletter

Dear Friends,



Welcome to a brief update on a busy start to the year for Manly Lagoon Friends!

If you missed our first Newsletter (December 2022) please click here [News](#)

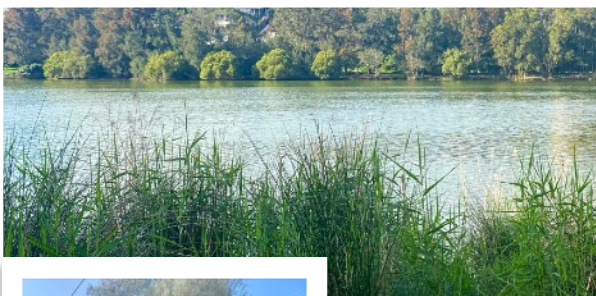


### News

January 13th - **Meet the Locals** morning was enjoyed by many, with a dozen or more watercraft cruising the waterway. A new perspective was experienced by all. One of delight and enjoyment, infused with a strong connection to this special place and community. Combined with a walking tour around the foreshore to Nolan Reserve, it fuelled the motivation to improve the amenity, biodiversity and health of the lagoon for all creatures great and small. The participation of both James Griffin MP and Council representatives reinforced the support we have to achieve our goals of a better lagoon for all.



February 2nd - **World Wetlands day** was celebrated with a weeding and preparation morning at Lagoon Park west. Lead by the expert bushcare team, we learnt more about weeds, native species and the essential role the riparian zone plays for animal habitat, bank stabilisation, nutrient recycling, water quality and flood mitigation. This was followed up by a very well attended **planting day** on May 2nd. We were joined by James Griffin MP, Ed McPeak (Council), and enthusiastic 4 Pines crew as part of their commitment to their local environment.





February 13th - An **announcement** was made by then Minister for Active Transport Rob Stokes and James Griffin MP about \$3.95 Million of funding that has been delivered to Council for a 4 metre wide pedestrian and cycling bridge to be built over Manly Lagoon alongside Pittwater Road Bridge with the goal of resolving a chokepoint in the cycle and walking network and encouraging more active transport in the area. More people will be appreciating the lagoon and its beautiful spaces by choosing to walk/cycle. Manly Lagoon Friends will have input on this project that will honour the lagoon as an important biodiversity corridor, incorporating environmental protection & rehabilitation.

### Resilience Officer update

Earlier this year, Council received a grant for a Disaster Risk Reduction Project. This is welcome news, as residents in the Manly flood risk zone and members of Manly Lagoon Friends regularly ask us questions relating to flood risk reduction and flood disaster management systems. Perhaps more importantly, channels of communication from Council regarding the above are repeatedly requested. We can confirm that -

- Gareth Birch is the Resilience Officer appointed and the project has commenced.
- The flood warning network and Manly Dam scour valve investigations are underway.
- The Disaster Dashboard will be completed by the end of the year and be a welcomed public resource, helping to address many of the community's concerns.

### Stormwater update



There are 26 Gross Pollutant Traps (GPTs) around the Manly Lagoon Catchment, with only 16 on a regular or semi regular cleaning schedule. Council removes around 900 tonnes of waste from them each year and is working towards improving maintenance schedules.

- The stormwater boom along Nolan Reserve is soon to be replaced and modified to be more efficient.
- The GPT at Condamine St and Pittwater Rd intersection is currently being investigated for renewal and improvements.



- Council operational funding for 2023-24 will continue to include programs such as GPT cleaning, street sweeping, environmental and waste education, bush regeneration, environmental and building compliance, pollution investigations and litter clean-ups in the catchment.
- Controlling the amount of leaf litter entering the lagoon has been identified as a significant issue requiring action.
- Feasibility studies on the upgrade of the Condamine Road GPT are underway, as are investigations into additional locations around the lagoon that can support GPT or Water Sensitive Urban Design assets.

- Manly Lagoon Friends are committed to working with Council on stormwater input management.

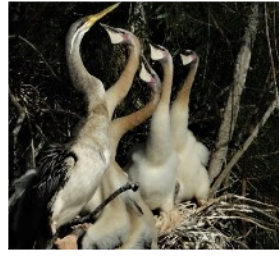


# Out and About

## Manly Lagoon BushCare

As a result of two successful wetlands Bushcare days in February and May, we will now have a regular **Manly Lagoon BushCare Group** working on the 1st Saturday of the month. The first one kicks off on 3rd June, 9am-12pm.

If you are keen to join, please contact **the Bushcare inbox** [bushcare@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bushcare@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au) directly to register.



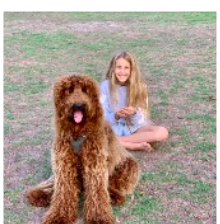
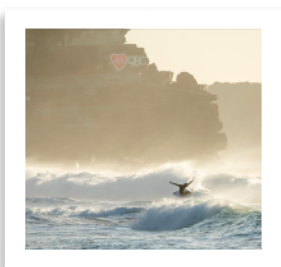
**Bird survey** - Tom Hazell continues to conduct a monthly water bird survey, and when Russell Beardmore is on board we get some beautiful photos to go with it. Anyone interested in getting out on the water for these mornings, **please get in contact**.

## Grant Opportunity

- The 2023 Sydney Water Community Grants Program is seeking projects focused on **Water Conservation**. Offers grants of up to \$10,000 to support **water conservation initiatives** in our local community. Applications close on 3rd July. [Grant info](#)
- The NAB Foundation Community Grants Program is seeking to fund local projects that **help communities prepare for natural disasters, support long-term recovery and build resilience against future disasters and climate change**. Offers up to \$10,000. Applications close 31 August. [Grant info](#)

**If any member has experience at Grant applications and would like to lead on either of these please get in touch!**

## Local Character Statements



Here's an opportunity for our members to have a say about what we believe makes up the local character of our neighbourhood. **Local character is a combination of built and natural, public and private environments that give a place its unique feel.** It is distinctive, unique or highly valued by the community. Council wants to know what we feel about our neighbourhoods local chapter, what we want it to look and feel like in the future. This includes environmental, social and economic characteristics such as urban design, land use, scenic and cultural landscapes. The goal is that local character can be considered within any DA and assist with opportunities to develop and enhance local character. The Northern Beaches Local Strategic Planning Statement - *Towards 2040* identified the need for a local character study. We are hoping that you will be able to help us refine these character statements prior to finalisation and public exhibition as part of the new Northern Beaches DCP.

*A separate email will be sent with an outline of the draft local area character statements. Because locals know their areas best, this is an opportunity for you to provide input. Council will then review and refine these statements from your feedback. This will be emailed shortly.*

# Reports & Resources

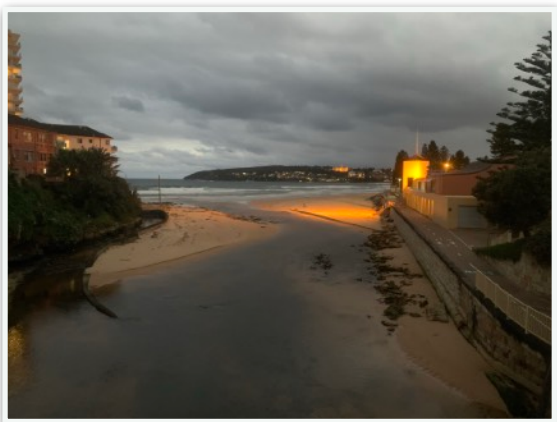


The NB Council Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) - **Towards 2040** states its Sustainability Priority 1 is “Healthy and valued coast and waterways”. Its goal is to protect and enhance waterways and coast, protect their ecosystem and work towards secondary contact recreation for the lagoon with a 5-10 year timeframe. We will continue to work with NB Council to help achieve these goals. For more info see pages 37-45 [Towards 2040](#) 🏖️

## Membership

Sitting at 80 members in our first year of existence demonstrates that our community cares about Manly Lagoon. Manly Lagoon Friends welcome all new members and encourages community involvement - we are only as strong and creative as our members, so please get involved. Our goal is 100 members by the end of this financial year - membership starts at only \$2 per household and goes a long way to showing decision makers that we are serious about our goals. Click on this link to our [membership page](#).

## Upcoming events



### Annual General Meeting

**Save the Date! Our inaugural AGM will be held at Queenscliff Surf Life Saving Club on the evening of Thursday August 3rd, 6:30-8:30pm**

We encourage all members to attend this meeting. This is a great opportunity for members to understand the challenges facing the lagoon, hear about the work our organisation is doing, hear from experts, meet our executive committee and other locals.

There will be live music, nibbles and drinks, lagoon water bird photographic display and excellent guest speakers. *An invitation will be sent out shortly, with **RSVP required**.*

Please share this newsletter with your friends and family to keep them updated, or encourage them to sign up via our website at [www.manlylagoonfriends.org](http://www.manlylagoonfriends.org) find us as @manlylagoonfriendsorg on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) for activity updates!

Kind regards,

Mel Koeman

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*Manly Lagoon Friends acknowledge and pay deep respect to the Gayemagal people, the traditional custodians of the land who called the wetlands of Manly Lagoon their home. We pay respect to Elders both past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal people. May we always honour the knowledge born of the Aboriginal connection to this land, water and sky.*