



End of Year 2022 Newsletter

Dear friends,

Manly Lagoon Friends Inc was incorporated in March 2022, a month notable for catastrophic flooding in the area, dangerous pollution and a rise in community concern for the management and wellbeing of Manly Lagoon and its surrounds.

A lot has happened since then, including the joining of 70 members to what I believe will be a strong community group in the years to come. For those of you who are already members, this newsletter is a small way to document and recognise the work we have done in the first 8 months. For those who are yet to become members, it demonstrates the commitment we have as we work towards a better lagoon, and acts as an invitation to get onboard.

We await the release of two reports - '**10 Year Lagoon Health Report Card**' and '**Manly Lagoon: Review of environmental processes**' - these will help inform our goals for 2023 and beyond (see page 6). Manly Lagoon Friends has requested Council and Water Research Laboratory present these reports to members.

Visit our website www.manlylagoonfriends.org to learn more. Find us @manlylagoonfriendsorg on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) to stay up to date with our activities. Email or call me - details at the bottom of this newsletter. Regards, Mel

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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.

News

It was an honour to be mentioned in **NSW Parliament** in June by the Hon. James Griffin MP, Member for Manly and Minister for Environment and Heritage. In particular we welcome James' willingness to work with us to obtain grants, foster enthusiasm for environmental custodianship within the community and work towards a better lagoon. You can watch and listen to the speech [here](#). James was recently presented with a large A1 poster of the Manly Lagoon Catchment during a walk-around meeting as a reminder of the size and value of the area.

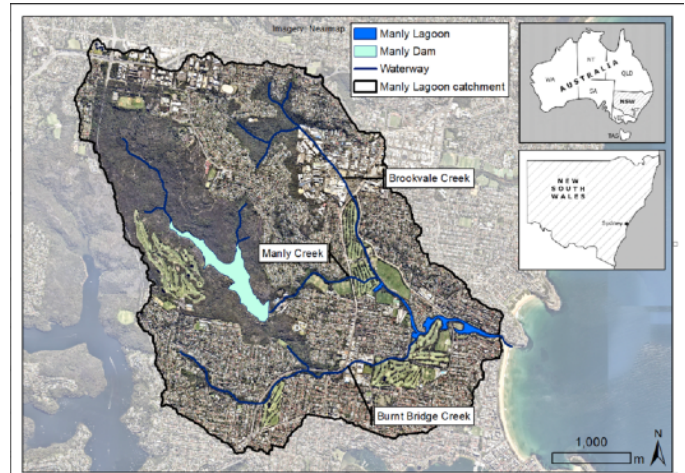


Figure 1.1: Manly Lagoon catchment

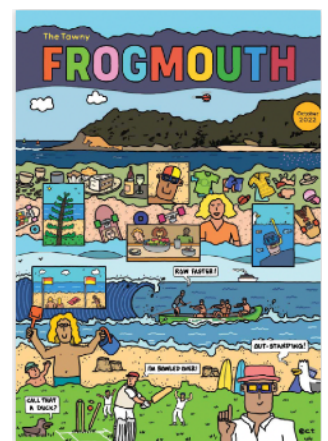
In August, Council approved a **discretionary fund application of \$500** which helped cover our website set up and annual hosting.



On October 13th, the [Northern Beaches Eco Awards](#) were held at Manly Art Gallery and Museum. We nominated a Manly Lagoon Friend, Tom Hazell, for the *Caring for our Waterways* category. Winning the award celebrated Tom's 15 years establishing the Manly Lagoon Bushcare Group, which created a lush habitat out of bare land along the riparian zone of Nolans Reserve. A healthy and robust riparian zone has significantly improved the wildlife habitat and water quality of the lagoon. Tom also heads up the Manly Lagoon Waterbird Survey, a monthly count that plays a valuable role in monitoring bird numbers over the seasons and years.

I have been fortunate to have the guidance and support of [Curl Curl Lagoon Friends](#) (CCLF) and am very grateful for their input and alliance. In October, CCLF held their AGM at North Curl Curl Surf Club. It was heartening to witness the depth and strength of their organisation, and to learn much that we can apply to Manly Lagoon. One interesting project that may be of benefit to Manly Lagoon water quality and habitat is the introduction of [floating wetlands](#).

Jen Mulveny, our Membership coordinator, wrote a brilliant article in the [October issue](#) of the loved Tawny Frogmouth, highlighting the importance of being a friend of this treasured waterway.



People

Manly Lagoon Friends was formed by a small group of Manly residents, many who have spent their lives close to (and in) the waterway:

Mel Koeman - President - Queenscliff

Jack Lord - Vice President - Manly

Scott Somerville - Treasurer - Queenscliff

Jake Somerville - Secretary - Q'Cliff

Jen Mulveny - Membership Secretary - North Manly

We have met for Executive meetings three times since inception, with our best laid plans for more impacted by various annoying viruses. We enjoyed stimulating coffee meetings, phone catch ups and lagoon chats with interested residents and new members. Valuable Lagoon Park walk-arounds were arranged with:

- **The Hon. James Griffin MP, Member for Manly** - discussing the need for attention to one of the most polluted and stressed lagoons in NSW.
- **Jason Ruszczak, Senior Environment Officer Northern Beaches Council (NBC) - Catchments** - discussing flood management, bank erosion, riparian zones, water quality and other environmental processes affecting the lagoon.
- **Laura Minnebo - Bush Regeneration** - discussing opportunities to improve the riparian zone, improving water quality, habitat, diversity and aesthetics.
- **Jeremy Smith, Manager, Park Assets NBC** - discussing the Plan of Management for Lagoon Park and opportunities to improve the aesthetics and use of the areas between Pittwater Road and Stuart Sommerville Bridge.
- **Karen Smith, Aboriginal Heritage Office** - discussing place making, connection to country.

...and coffee with:

- **Mel Dunn, Recovery Support Officer, National Emergency Management Agency** - discussing the needs of the community during extreme weather events and ways to mitigate flood risks and manage emergency events.
- **Kristyn Glanville, Councillor, Curl Curl Ward** - discussing the goals of MLF particularly in regards to climate change, pollution and community engagement.
- **Judy Reizes, Founding Manager Manly Environment Centre** - discussing history, stormwater and lagoon pressures.

Special shout outs to:

- **David Walton, Councillor, Curl Curl Ward** - for recommending us for Council Discretionary Funding for a new community group.
- **Save Manly Dam Catchment [Committee](#)** for protecting the biodiversity, beauty and heritage of Manly Dam Reserve.
- **Matt Lieper** - for producing the beautiful drone video we now feature on our website.
- **Brent Turner** - for our very special logo of a beloved Royal Spoonbill ([@artofbrentos](#)).

Out and About

Clean Ups - We held our first Clean Up in June with the assistance of Kobie from [Northern Beaches Clean Up Crew](#) and the support of [Queenscliff Boardriders Club](#). A positive day with a big impact, collecting much storm debris and rubbish from Lakeside Crescent to Queenscliff.

A smaller Clean Up in September on the northern bank through Aitken Reserve proved that single use soft plastics and micro plastics are concerningly pervasive.

We will hold regular seasonal Clean Ups - keep an eye on socials for details.



Field survey - walking the loop from the ocean outlet to Warringah Mall, back via Addiscombe Rd was an informative exercise. Much bush regeneration is being done through the riparian zones of Brookvale and Manly Creek, however the rubbish in the lagoon and the poorly maintained Gross Pollutant Traps and Nolans boom was disappointing. Stormwater Management is a significant issue to tackle in 2023. **Any members interested in forming a Stormwater Sub-committee please let me know.**



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.**

Bush Care - MLF is seeking members for a [Bush Care Group](#). 5 committed members are required for the formation of a new group. Currently the only one for Manly Lagoon is one run by Tom Hazell along Nolans Reserve. We would like to establish one for the zone east of Pittwater Road to Stuart Sommerville Bridge. **Please contact me if you are interested.**



Grants and Submissions

Grant Applications

26/08/22 *Sydney Water - Healthy Waterways*

Applied for Riparian planting and signage on the value of riparian zones for healthy waterways.

Status - Unsuccessful

09/08/22 *Northern Beaches Council - Environmental Grants 22/23*

Applied for Manly Lagoon Friends community noticeboard, community bench and native planting.

Status - Unsuccessful

If any member has experience and skill at Grant applications please get in touch!

Submissions to Council

Part of our role is to advocate for the lagoon by making submissions to Council in response to calls for comment on various Council plans and projects. Residents are also encouraged to make personal submissions on areas of concern or interest.

- Of particular concern to our lagoon are the results of the **Stormwater Management Study**. MLF notes in its submission that the study confirms POOR condition of Manly Lagoon and ALL three of its creeks and that future works to improve the environmental condition in Manly Lagoon **should focus on stormwater quality improvement**. MLF requested ongoing collaboration and consultation with council to clearly **define the work needed to improve the condition of the lagoon in specific timeframes**.
- Encouraging are the recommendations made in the **Watercourse, Wetlands and Riparian Lands Study**. MLF welcomed the outcomes of the study in its submission, in particular the objectives to improve the environmental values and functioning of watercourses, wetlands and riparian land of the lagoon and the subsequent inclusion of riparian buffers in the Northern Beaches LEP/DCP.

Details of our submissions to date are available on request. Links to the council items below.

[Resilient Northern Beaches](#) 07/06/22

[North Manly Recreation Area](#) 24/10/22

[Biodiversity Planning](#) 02/12/22

[Stormwater Management Study](#) 02/12/22

[Conservation Zones Review](#) 2/12/22

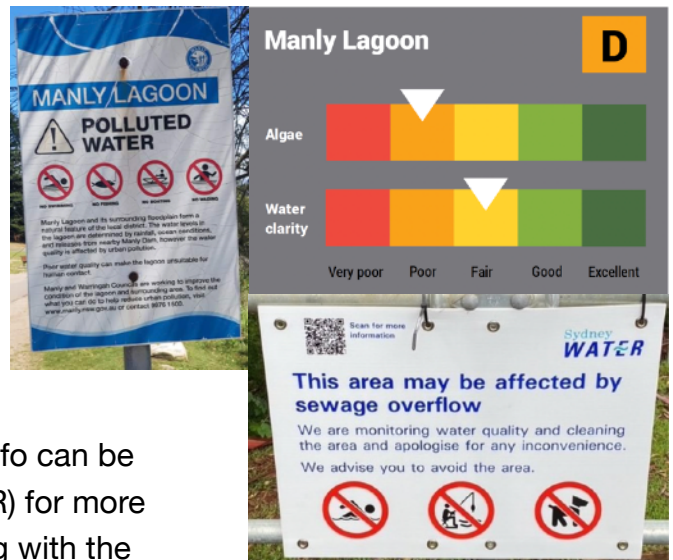
[Watercourse, Wetlands and Riparian Lands Study](#) 2/12/22



Reports & Resources

The **10 Year Lagoon Health Report Card** produced by Council has just been finalised. When it is released to the public, we have requested Council present the report to members and outline measures for improving the health of the lagoon.

The current Water Quality Monitoring Program info can be found [here](#). With a conclusive D average (POOR) for more than a decade, the lagoon is obviously struggling with the urban pressures placed on it.



Bacteria levels are commonly classified as BAD following rainfall events, meaning they present a high risk of illness to recreational water users. As a result, the lagoon and its Queenscliff Beach outlet is sadly classified as not fit for primary or secondary recreational use. Ignoring this advice after rain can result in significant illness.

The comprehensive 100 page report **Manly Lagoon: Review of environmental processes** is being finalised and published. Produced by the Water Research Laboratory (WRL) School of Civil & Environmental Engineering, UNSW, to help inform a comprehensive Coastal Management Plan for Manly Lagoon, this detailed document will take time to digest, however it confirms:

- The eco-health of Manly Lagoon is in a threatened state.
- Lagoon health remains poor and ongoing adaptive management is required for improvement.
- Risk assessment found that *climate change* and *poor water quality* pose the most significant risk to the values provided by Manly Lagoon.

Manly Lagoon Friends has requested Council and WRL present this report to members.

Council in partnership with Manly Hydraulics Laboratory (MHL) and the NSW Government have developed a [Flood Warning Webpage](#) which provides real time information on rainfall conditions and water levels. This, along with a coordinated response involving Sydney Water, Council, the [SES](#) and MHL to open the Queenscliff scour channel and release water from Manly Dam before predicted heavy rain events, is part of the flood risk reduction process. We have been assured there is good communications between key agencies, however clearer communication and collaboration with residents is needed on this issue. **Any members interested in forming a Flood Subcommittee please contact us.**

Membership

70 new members in the first 8 months 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 the 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](#).

Manly Lagoon Friends became a Full Member of the [Nature Conservation Council](#) (NCC) in September. We join a vibrant democratic network of community environmental organisations. We now have the opportunity to collaborate with other NCC members, contribute to statewide environmental campaigns, shape organisational policy and access support.

Upcoming events

Members Meeting at Queenscliff Surf Life Saving Club - TBC

January 13th - Meet The Locals -

9am-12pm - Based at Lakeside Crescent, tour the lagoon in canoes and kayaks, enjoy a sausage sizzle, water bird photo display and a walking tour along the banks of the lagoon. Keep an eye on the News page on our website and socials for details.



Feb 2 - World Wetlands Day is observed to recognise and celebrate the importance of wetlands to the world, and the diversity of life that they support. We are planning a community planting on that day - **anybody keen to coordinate this, please let us know.**

This year it has been clear that the main concerns from the community are the effects of climate change/flood management and pollution. On a positive note, the community has demonstrated a love for the lagoon environment and there is a strong connection to the blue and green spaces it provides us. I am encouraged and motivated by what our community can achieve in 2023 and beyond. If you have a skill set or particular interest that would add value to the organisation, please get in touch. We need you!

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

Kind regards,
Mel Koeman

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