



November 2023 Newsletter

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If you missed our other Newsletters, please click here [News](#)



Photo Alec Smart



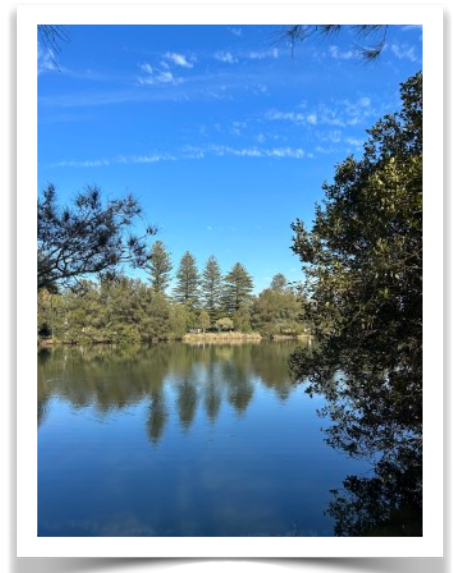
Photos Russell Beardmore
Osprey and Moor Hen



Annual General Meeting - Our inaugural AGM was held on the evening of August 3rd, 2023, with over 40 members and guests gathering at the beautiful Queenscliff Surf Life Saving Club.

We heard talks by Yianni Mentis and Jason Rusczyk from Council, Alice Harrison from the WRL, Murray Fraser from Manly-Freshwater World Surfing Reserve and Tom Hazell.

Individually, their expertise and perspectives were an important contribution to a highly informative evening for Manly Lagoon Friends members and guests. Collectively, they were able to communicate that there is much that needs to be done for our highly urbanised, ecologically stressed waterway, but also that there is much that is being done behind the scenes by many dedicated people!



Water quality, Stormwater, Flood mitigation and Dam management were the prime subjects at question time. The feedback from the night was very positive. It is clear that the community not only deeply cares for the lagoon and its environment, but desires more information about its environmental processes and the work that is being done to manage and care for it.

We look forward to collaboratively moving forward with Council and Local Government to address the biggest 2 stressors identified in the recent State of Play report by WRL - water quality and climate change resilience.

We welcomed new secretary Mark Kennedy and membership secretary Michella Burgers, saying a big thankyou and farewell to Jake Somerville and Jen Mulveny. Thanks to QSLSC and Four Pines for their support of the evening.

During the AGM we took the opportunity to get attendees to list their loves and concerns about the lagoon - please let us know if you want to add anything to this list !

Loves	Concerns
Family friendly spaces	Polluted water was primary concern
Dog friendly	Erosion of north and south banks of lagoon
Social spaces	Rubbish in water and parkland
Fishing	Parkland not recovered from flood
Kayaking	Damage to lagoon banks due to unrestricted dog access
Beautiful green spaces and pockets of nature	Microplastics
Birds	Bird life disrupted by cats and dogs

Lagoon Health Report Card 2011-22



Monitoring period	Manly Lagoon	Curl Curl Lagoon	Dee Why Lagoon	Narrabeen Lagoon	Pittwater
Overall health 2011-2022	D	D	B	B	A
2021/22	D	C	A	B	A
2020/21	C	B	B	B	A
2019/20	D	C	B	B	A
2018/19	C	E	B	B	A
2017/18	C	C	C	C	A
2016/17	D	C	B	B	
2015/16	D	D	B	B	
2014/15	C	D	C	C	
2013/14	C	C	B	B	
2012/13	D	E	B	B	
2011/12	D	E	C	D	

Key	A	B	C	D	E
	Excellent	Very Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor

The recent release of the 10 year Lagoon Health Report Card shows the commitment Council has to monitoring water quality in the Northern Beaches lagoons. Sadly, the results are not so welcome for Manly lagoon, receiving an overall ecological health grade of **D**. In summary - The **overall water quality** in Manly Lagoon has been consistently rated as **FAIR** to **POOR**. This means that the water quality is typically worse than at least 50% of estuary systems in NSW. **Algae concentrations** in Manly Lagoon are typically **POOR** to **VERY POOR**, groundwater inflows and catchment runoff contributing significantly to the nutrient load that drives algae growth. **Water clarity** in Manly Lagoon fluctuates between **GOOD** to **POOR**, depending on rainfall. The full report can be found on our [Resources](#) page. We continue to support studies and projects that work towards improving water quality in the lagoon, its creeks and beautiful Queenscliff Beach.

Stormwater update

- **Nolan's Boom** - we had been working hard to get this replaced before the end of the year but time is running out. We understand that a contractor will be engaged soon.
- **Condamine/Pittwater GPT** - modelling, assessments and surveys have been done at this site. Concept for the Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) is currently underway.
- **CSIRO sensor technology trial** - Cameras have been installed in the Manly lagoon catchment. The aim is to monitor the litter load in the waterways to assist better stormwater management strategies.
- **Stormwater Education** - we are in discussion with Council's Greener Community team about opportunities within the lagoon catchment.



Are there any stormwater outlets that you think need attention?

Email a photo with a description of location and the concern you have and we will check it out.

Manly Lagoon Oxygen Study - A recent review of water quality data from Manly Lagoon by the Water Research Laboratory (WRL) found that dissolved oxygen is only within recommended environmental limits 25% of the time. One approach proposed by WRL to improve water quality and dissolved oxygen levels within Manly Lagoon is to artificially aerate the water. Two key questions inform the study:

1. What is the rate at which oxygen is currently consumed by the waterbody and/or sediment?
2. How will the ecological system respond to additional oxygen?

This project will improve understanding of oxygen demand and sediment in the waterway which is driving poor ecological condition in the lagoon. *Due to start Dec 2023, weather permitting.*

MWGC Gymnastics and Multi-Sport Centre of Excellence - received a considerable grant in July 2023 from the NSW State Government. It will be developed on the old Bowling Club site at Nolan Reserve on the corner of Pittwater and Kentwell Rd. It is a very large development that can have a large effect on the catchment. During the pre-lodgement meeting Council presented on significant WSUD and landscaping standards. Planting, riparian zone sensitivity, bird habitat and attention to creek care and sensitivity should be incorporated into this site. We are awaiting the DA lodgement and will keep up to date on issues.



Pittwater Road pedestrian and cycle bridge - Council has undertaken initial survey and geotechnical investigations for the preparation of tender documents for design and construction of the bridge. Due to release tender in late 2023 to allow concept design to be provided, with initial community consultation prior to detailed design for construction.

Manly Golf Course

We have had a number of positive meetings and visits with MGC and Council on a collaborative approach to riparian vegetation management. Council reviewed the MGC Vegetation Management Plan and provided advice on species selection and planting densities at various location around the course. Council was satisfied with content of VMP and will continue to support the golf course with advice when required. It is great to see this working and both the birds and golfers enjoying their habitat! We look forward to sharing some great outcomes for the lagoon.



Manly Lagoon East BushCare - working on the 2nd Saturday of each month, meeting at the swings. Since inception in June we have seen good growth in our plantings and effective weed control in our focus areas on both southern and northern banks. Still a lot of work to do!

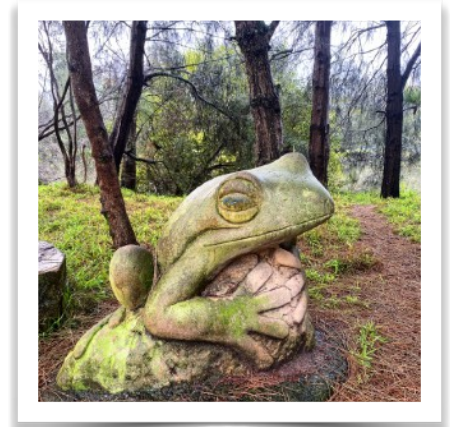
Manly Lagoon West BushCare - working every Monday 8:30-11:30am, meeting at Nolan Reserve amenities block. This well established zone is led by Tom Hazell.

If you are keen to join, get in touch.



Manly Lagoon Park sandstone sculptures

- We are working with Council to update the information panels at these 8 locations. They have already been nicely cleaned. Revitalising and updating the sculptures and landscaping along the bank will enhance connection to this special place whilst raising ecological awareness and the impact humans have on the waterway.



Buff Banded Rail - Russell Beardmore

Bird survey - Tom

Hazell continues to lead our 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 with Tom 0419981737**. All are welcome to a presentation on our waterbirds by Tom, hosted by Sydney Harbour Trust Volunteers, Sat Nov 25th, 2pm, Building B, North Head Barracks.

Why survey? The water bird population is an indication of lagoon health, both its water quality and riparian zone integrity.

As an active wildlife corridor, Manly lagoon, its creeks and vegetation contributes to the habitat, health and movement of many birds. Since 2019, 33 species of water birds have been recorded. The numbers of birds sighted per survey range from 56 to 176 and regular monitoring helps us understand patterns related to the ecosystem and how it is coping with challenges such as flooding and climate change. It also highlights the richness and diversity that exists along our waterways.

Emergency Resilience Officer update

- **Manly Dam scour valve investigation** - Council has reviewed a draft report from Manly Hydraulics Laboratory. This report will be used to work with other stakeholders managing the dam water level and scour valves to assess whether there are *any improvements that can be made to current practice to result in beneficial outcomes for downstream communities and properties*.
- **Upgrades to Council's Flood Information Tool** - Council plays a key role in providing flood information, forecasts and warnings to emergency service agencies such as the SES. *Recent improvements to the online flood warning system include:* Incorporating rainfall radar data to provide more frequent data feeds, Development of separate platform in the event of outages or gauge issues, System upgrades to reduce alert time. A key source already available to the community living around the lagoon, it provides real-time information about the amount of rainfall in the catchment and the current lagoon water levels [LINK](#)
- **Disaster Dashboard** - This is being developed with the aim of helping communities prepare for emergency events across a range of hazards. It will pull together information from a range of agencies during a disaster so that residents, visitors and businesses can better understand the impacts of an emergency event in their local area. *Expected launch in 2024.*



Manly Hydraulics Laboratory (MHL) is working with the Northern Beaches Council to provide up to date information on current weather conditions. This information will also help the council manage flood and coastal risks.

Grant Opportunities

- Council and MLF have provided a letter of support to UTS for its ARC funding application. The project will enable us to more precisely pinpoint the causes of poor water quality through innovative water testing around all 27 stormwater inflows into the lagoon. This work has enormous potential to significantly improve the water quality of not only the lagoon but our precious Queenscliff and Manly beach. *Expect to hear result of application April/May 2024.*
- Sadly a grant opportunity to fund some floating wetlands has fallen through. We are investigating other grant opportunities for this valuable project.
- We are always on the look-out for grant opportunities and assistance in applying for them. Get in touch if you feel you can help.

Reports & Resources

Check out our [resources](#) page for two new additions -

- Manly Environmental Processes Report
- 10 year Lagoon Health report card (can also be found on Council website - [LINK](#))

Membership

We currently have **105** members, demonstrating 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. 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

Ocean Care Festival - 26 November - 3 December. Celebrate our love for the ocean!

Events include Science at the Steyne, UNDERWATER! 2023 Photo Competition and celebration, Rock Platform Rambles, Dive for Debris, Beach Clean-ups, Guided Snorkel Tours, SUP Safaris, Ocean walks and talks plus much more! [LINK](#)

World Wetlands Day - Save the Date! February 2, 2024. This Day is an annual observance that highlights the vital role of wetlands in our environment and raises awareness about their conservation and sustainable management. **Activity TBC.**

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

Kind regards,

Mel Koeman melliecat@bigpond.com 0419 421 381



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.