Surfing the Future

A Vision for the Manly Local Government Area for 2025 **Manly Council**



Acknowledgements

This report acknowledges the Kay-ye-me people of the Guringai language group as the traditional owners of the place now known as Manly.

Thanks to the Manly Futures Forum Committee for their hard work in realizing this project, to the Australia Street Company for organizing and facilitating the Manly Futures Forum and to Stella Maris College for hosting this event.

Not least, thanks are given to the community participants without whom this vision would not be possible.

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Introduction

from Dr Peter Macdonald, Mayor of Manly and Chair, Manly Futures Forum Committee

Manly offers a unique urban environment with lively streetscapes, charming residential precincts and heritage buildings, all contained within an incomparable natural setting between Sydney's harbour and ocean foreshores.

Manly residents respect and value our built and natural environments, and seek to conserve them and the exceptional amenity they afford.

Facing our future, however, means meeting the challenge of increasing population pressures and the effects of Manly's ever increasing popularity as a visitor destination.

The opportunities for Manly and the ways ahead are outlined in this report, **Surfing the Future.** The title of the report encapsulates some important meanings for Manly. 'Surfing' is a part of our leisure lifestyle - evoking sports and fun directly associated with our coastal location. It carries a sense of place and a spirit of excitement!

'Surfing the Internet' is another connection, directly related to the world of cyberspace, searching for and gathering information, working through many options to find a range of answers.

The Internet is an information source that is constantly being improved, updated and changed, which relates to the constant change and reassessment discussed in this document with regard to our future.

In all senses, 'surfing' suggests boundlessness - a compelling notion when it comes to considering the future.

Surfing the Future provides us with a sense of direction for what is to come, and some innovative ideas for what we need to do along the way.

I remain optimistic about Manly. We have creative people, a dedicated community and a spirit that will carry the day.

Riding the Wave of Our History...

Manly is the traditional home of the **Kay-ye-me people**, who lived here for at least 20,000 years - fishing, gathering food and hunting in the bush-land. The Kay-ye-me people are a part of the larger Guringai language group.



During the early years of the colony, settlers only visited Manly to explore and to fish, and there was a very small population of farmers. In 1837 the **Quarantine Station** was developed at North Head, to protect the colony against major epidemics such as smallpox. By the 1840s more settlers came to live and work here, close to the Harbour foreshores, and the non-Aboriginal population slowly increased (Curby, 2001, p48).

In the 1850s Henry Gilbert Smith, a landowner and businessman, took the opportunity to make Manly, or 'Brighton' as he called it, a **tourist resort**. A regular ferry service was established, and it became a popular destination on public holidays. Hotels were built (Curby, 2001, p53-61). These early businesses were the foundations of today's local economy.

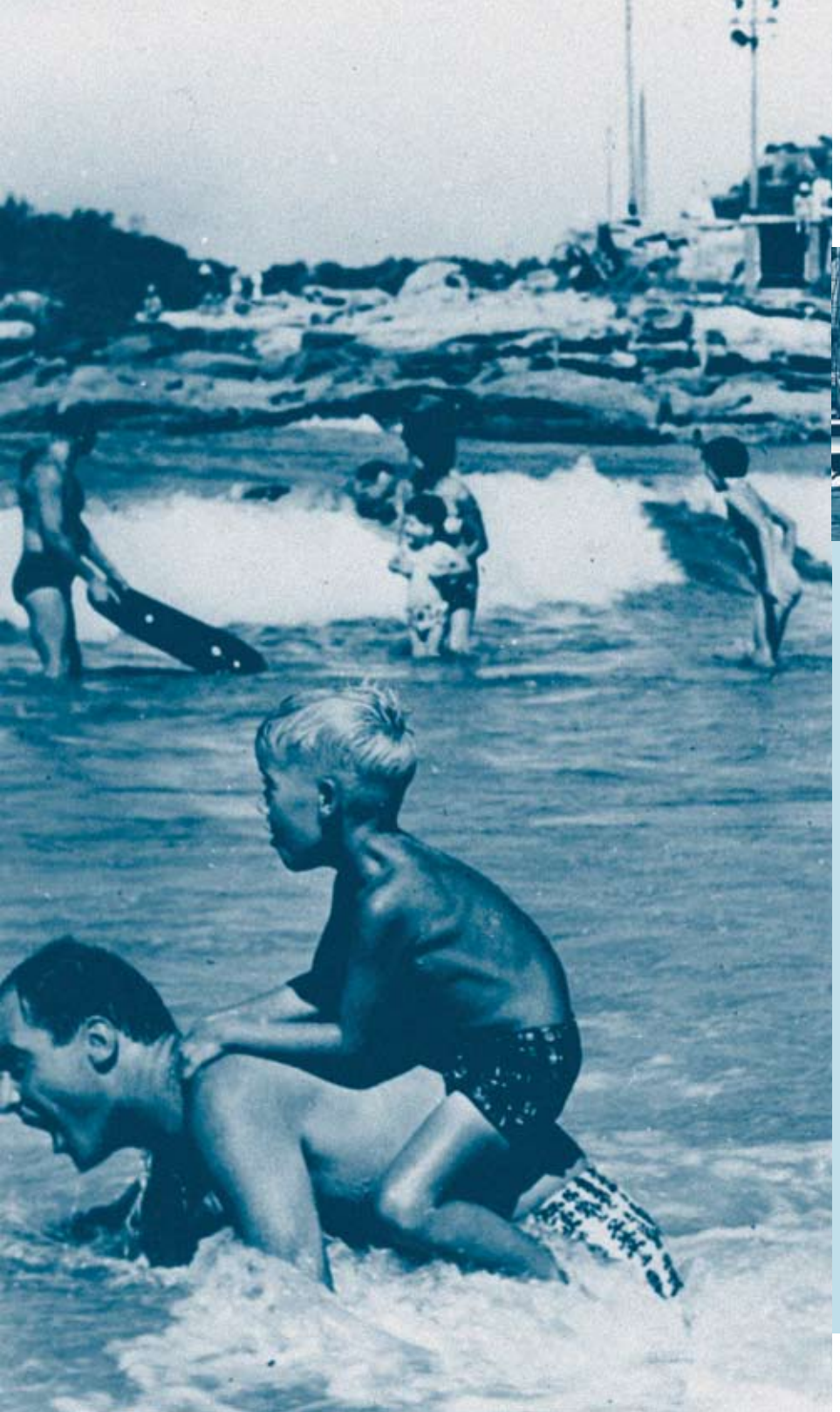
The bush vegetation and surrounding countryside were one of the attractions to those early visitors to Manly (Curby, 2001, p64-5). The **Manly Municipal Council**, incorporated in 1877, planted Norfolk Island Pines and Moreton Bay Figs on The Corso and oceanfront, dedicating areas of land to parks and recreation, along the Ocean Beach as well as at Fairlight and Clontarf, which now forms a stretch of the popular Manly to Spit Bridge walk (Curby, 2001, p93-107).

By the 1920s, Manly had become a Sydney suburb in its own right. Trams, motor vehicles and buses increased the ways people could get around, with the construction of the Spit Bridge improving access to the area. The **Chamber of Commerce** was established in 1923 and Manly continued to grow. Many new residential flat buildings were constructed and public buildings such as **Manly Town Hall** were built.

The suburbs of Seaforth, Clontarf and Balgowlah emerged in the 1950s and 60s, with a built-character that can be recognized today. This was an era of tourism and building boom, the first high-rise towers and the growth of private car use.

A Heritage Study was prepared in 1986 which recognised all of the significant natural, social, historical and cultural elements of the local environment.

Manly's popularity as a place to live, work and visit means inevitably that conflicts arise between managing our resources now, and protecting them for the future. Manly Council has sought to address these conflicts since its inception with plans, policies and strategies, such as the **Manly Local Environmental Plan 1988** and more recently the **Manly**





Sustainability Strategy and the **Manly Social Plan**.

Regionally, Manly has joined with Mosman, Pittwater and Warringah Councils to prepare a **Regional Inventory and Strategy** in response to the Department of Planning's **Sydney Metropolitan Strategy** to accommodate the projected growth in the region, taking into account existing land use planning, infrastructure and environmental constraints. We continue to work towards opportunities to improve Manly, protecting our resources to maintain this as a first class place to live, work and visit.

Surfing the Future – what does it mean?



Jozy Sutton, **Fun in the sun,** (detail)

Introduction

Manly Council held two previous Futures Forum events in 1992 and 1994 to consult with the community to identify a vision for the future and to guide direction. The **2005 Manly Futures Forum** built on these two previous events.

In this report of the 2005 Futures Forum, **Surfing the Future**, we set out a vision for today and tomorrow for local residents, workers and Councillors to inform and focus decision making over the next two decades.

Vision

Like any Vision, ours is there to keep us on track as we move forward and to enable us to identify and measure our success along the way.

Manly's Vision is:

A thriving community where residents and visitors enjoy a clean, safe and unique natural environment enhanced by heritage and lifestyle

How did we get here?

Prior to the Futures Forum, which took place in September 2005, consultants from the **Australia Street Company** interviewed people with an interest in Manly to identify background insights and perspectives on topics of concern, such as environmental issues, gentrification and development pressures, tourism management and pressures on local government.

These insights informed the program of the two-day **Manly Futures Forum**, at which expert speakers presented their views on the challenges and opportunities for moving forward.

Local residents were then involved in Forum workshops that debated issues such as:

- eco-initiatives
- social and cultural change
- the future of arts, recreation, leisure and tourism
- how online Manly Council should be
- what individuals can do to foster good outcomes for Manly's long term future.



Jeanette Korduba Thompson, **Manly Icons**



The information gathered at the Manly Futures Forum has been considered and input into the vision for **Surfing the Future**.

What about other consultations?

Manly Council seeks the views of local residents on many new initiatives. Input from the community provided over recent years has contributed to:

Manly Social Plan 2004/09 – Views were gathered from local residents and stakeholders, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; children and families; culturally and linguistically diverse people; gay, lesbian and transgender people; older people; young people and young adults.

My Manly – Visual and written media in the form of original artworks, photographs, poems and stories were submitted on the theme of ***"sharing our treasured experiences, places and things"***. High quality entries identified what makes Manly special, including activities around the sea and beach like swimming, snorkeling, sea and surf, enjoying the relaxing atmosphere and our natural heritage and wildlife.



Hammish Twidell, **A Rainbow Beach**

Manly Sustainability Strategy – This report sets out a blueprint for a Sustainable Manly and has substantial community input to each of its 3 yearly reviews.

Consultations with our community are numerous, reports of consultations such as **Manly After Midnight**, input from community participation in our **Local Environment Plan** and **Development Control Plan** working party, advisory committees and our **Precinct Community Forums** have all been taken into consideration to prepare this document.

Why do we need a vision?

Surfing the Future provides a direction to aim towards for the year 2025. The opportunities are intended to be broad in their focus, because other documents, such as the Social Plan and those outlined above - sit underneath the vision and contain more detail about implementation.

Surfing the Future is a 'road map' for our journey, with a vision for how we will get from 2005 to 2025, but with the acknowledgement that there is more than one route!

Opportunities and Challenges – in summary

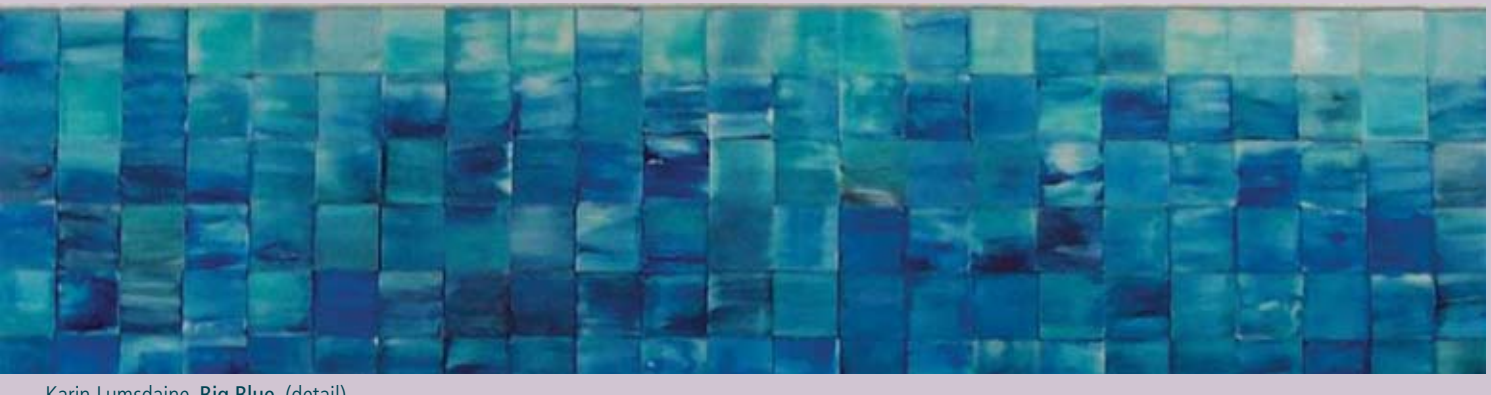
"It is easy to regret the past, and easy to fear the future. But our fears must be resisted, and the future must be embraced, climate change and all"

Dr Elizabeth Farrelly, Manly Futures Forum, September 24th 2005

Manly Council has made a decision to embrace the future, and **Surfing the Future** sets out our vision. The **six** opportunities and challenges that will help us to achieve our vision are summarised here.



Orlando Lueuin Eve, **Untitled**



Karin Lumsdaine, **Big Blue**, (detail)

Each of these opportunities is inter-related, so progress in one area can improve progress in another. For example, more affordable housing means that a greater diversity of people can live here, with greater inclusiveness, and positive social outcomes for our community.

VISION	OPPORTUNITIES	CHALLENGES
1. A Living Manly – inclusive society and culture	Covering the social and cultural needs of our existing and future population, considering peoples' physical, mental and spiritual health, to foster cohesion in our community. We aim for Manly to be safe, healthy and become a site for *urban citizenship* that promotes a dynamic and intercultural exchange between community groups.	• Increase in population, more diverse cultures and aging population • Subsequent impacts on infrastructure and a need to house and provide employment • Gentrification - a change to the socio-economic status of residents • Competition between "life space" and "economic space" • Public areas are a resource to preserve for the community, not as exclusive private areas • Encouraging the use of public areas to increase perceptions of safety.
2. An Affordable Manly – accommodation for our future	To have suitable, affordable housing which meets the diversity of local residents' needs. Sustainable design and process in the urban built and landscaped environment, minimizing resource use and waste whilst maximizing re-use of resources.	• Continuing to accommodate local mid and low income workers so they live near jobs, our children and older people in the area • Finding innovative ways to deliver and manage affordable housing • Environmentally sensitive design in the built environment that is aesthetically pleasing and minimizing resource use and waste • Design for adaptable living, meaning that older people can stay independent in their homes for longer.
3. A Well Governed Manly – the role of local government	To have clear leadership from local government that takes account of and responds to community perspectives and needs, and is working towards our long term goals.	• Continuing to be a clear and effective leader • Clarity on the roles of local government • Engaging a diverse range of local people • Utilising new technologies and the Internet to engage residents • Pressures from State and Federal Government.
4. A Natural Manly – a sustainable environment	To encompass the natural environment and a sustainable ecological future, a range of aims are given: • That Manly Council will manage decisions to have the best ecological and social outcomes • That Manly Council will continue to respect and protect the geodiversity and biodiversity of the local area • That Manly Council will plan to meet the challenges of climate change, and seek to mitigate impacts in line with sustainable development principles.	The following aspects of climate change require management: • Sea level rise • Coastal erosion and retreat • Increases in the frequency and intensity of coastal storms and floods, temperate rise and rainfall decrease • Greater energy and water efficiency and a change to perceptions of these services in relation to end uses • Conservation of biodiversity in areas such as North Head • Behaviour change for individual local level action to minimize resource use and waste.
5. A Visitor Friendly Manly – a place to stop and stay awhile	To plan for tourism and maintain Manly as an attractive tourist destination, without compromising our natural environment, built heritage and sense of community.	• Residents and tourists alike benefit from amenity and services in Manly such as cafes and shops, but residents perceive they pay the 'cost' • A high volume of visitors and tourists with associated real and perceived increases in traffic, litter and noise • Residents want to preserve and protect the natural environment which attracts tourists.
6. A Moving Manly – transport, access and getting around	To facilitate the use of sustainable transport that minimizes negative social and environmental effects, and improves access.	• Integrating sustainable transport options such as walking, cycling and pubic transport whilst minimizing private motor vehicle use. • Maintaining efficient and reliable public transport

Opportunities and Challenges – in detail



Introduction

Each of the opportunity themes below has been identified using information from participants at the Manly Futures Forum and other consultations, feedback from experts and references from related reports.

For each opportunity, the long-term aim is given up front, along with:

- **Issues of concern** – briefly describing why the theme needs to be addressed.
- **Our current position** – outlining some of the ways that Council is dealing with the issue at the moment. Other Council documents give greater details on specific actions, and these are not repeated in this report.
- **Challenges to achievement** – identifying some of the barriers in getting where we want to go.
- **Your suggestions** – listing the ideas that our community and the experts raised during the Manly Futures Forum.

What can I do?

As an individual you can play a role in shaping Manly's future. A separate section designed especially for the local community asks, 'What can I do?' Here you will find practical tips and ideas for action or reflection.

Universal challenges

Each opportunity has specific challenges, and these are stated in the relevant section.



However, there are also 'universal' challenges that apply to every opportunity, such as involving the community, implementation, a need for ongoing resources and support, and the need for leadership.

Involving the community

Robyn Bushell identified some 'myths' in relation to community consultation. One myth widely accepted was:

'Consulting the community will provide the answer'.

People's views are shaped by individual perspectives, which come from their life experience and learned knowledge, personal values and political motivations. Council has to make difficult decisions using the evidence and information available at that time, based often on what may be conflicting views.

Report implementation

Once a clear course of action has been decided, the challenge is then to implement the plan. Some members of the Manly Futures Forum Committee and Futures Forum workshop participants thought that our direction should be specific enough to be meaningful, avoiding 'motherhood statements' that are too general to have meaning.

Others were concerned that Surfing the Future should not be too specific, leaving open the possibility of innovation in implementation as knowledge and technologies change along the way.

Resources and support

While Manly Council can directly address implementation strategies and lead the way in some areas, legislative and policy support, resources, funding and partnerships are necessary from State and Federal Governments to assist in our progress and truly promote long term change.

Moral and practical support from the Manly community is also necessary, especially through Precinct Community Forums and the role of volunteers. Local business plays a role too, by providing resources, funding and partnerships.

Leadership

The participants at the Manly Futures Forum workshop which discussed social and cultural change stated that Manly Council – both Councillors and the staff - needs to take on a clear leadership role. In undertaking this visioning exercise, Manly Council has already made a clear commitment to Surfing the Future.

What can I do?

This section is designed as a reference to give you some ideas for action and reflection in each of the opportunity areas listed in **Surfing the Future**.

OPPORTUNITIES	WHAT CAN I DO?
1. A Living Manly – inclusive society and culture	• Be 'active'– get involved in community processes • Be tolerant, be open to trying new ideas, and understanding other people's perspectives.
2. An Affordable Manly – accommodation for our future	• Think about the physical shape that Manly might take in the future. Consider why you, your family and friends would want to keep living here • Consider what actions are needed to ensure that there is a supply of housing and the form that this might take.
3. A Well Governed Manly – the role of local government	• Be involved with local government by joining your local Precinct Community Forum, and encourage other people such as new residents to get involved • Participate on a Committee of Council as a community representative.
4. A Natural Manly – a sustainable environment	• Minimise your resource use at home, e.g. fit water efficient shower heads, tap flow regulators and use energy efficient electrical goods, turn off appliances on 'standby' that are not in use etc. • Buy and use natural and environmentally friendly products that minimize pollution and waste • Patronize local food providers, reducing your environmental 'footprint' and minimize a need for packaging by using the Manly Food Cooperative • Minimize waste by re-using items and recycle • Plant local native species in your garden to save water, reduce maintenenance and provide habitat for native fauna..
5. A Visitor Friendly Manly – a place to stop and stay awhile	▪ Be welcoming, helpful and hospitable to visitors and tourists. Remember, tourism is Manly's main source of private employment.
6. A Moving Manly – transport, access and getting around	• Walk or take a bike, to promote sustainable transport • Make use of public transport for shopping and to and from work.

Anoek Degroot, **Manly People**

1. A Living Manly – inclusive society and culture

"Manly's future is now tied firmly to the global future of Sydney as a 'global city', and also to other wider, global networks and circuits of capital, including other cities, places and regions, through for example, migration, travel and tourism, and industry and investment"

Dr Fiona Allon, Manly Futures Forum, September 24th 2005

"Be the change that you wish to see"

Workshop participant, Manly Futures Forum, September 24th 2005

Aims

A Living Manly covers the social and cultural needs of our existing and future population, considering peoples' physical, mental and spiritual health, to foster cohesion in our community:

- we aim for Manly to be safe, healthy and become a place for ***urban citizenship*** that promotes a dynamic and intercultural exchange between community groups.

Issues of concern

Demographer Shane Nugent predicted that Manly's 2004 population of 39,000 is going to grow to about 45,000 by the year 2031. The current population bulge between the ages of 25 and 39 years is projected to remain the same in future. A steady increase in the number and proportion of older people is expected (Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources, 2004, NSW Statistical Local Area Populations Projections, 2001-2031, 2004 release).

Population increases mean a need for appropriate infrastructure, services and jobs that must be included in planning for our future. The challenge lies not only in physically accommodating these people and managing 'gentrification' (see **1. An Affordable Manly – accommodation for our future)** but also engaging everyone in community life.

As our population grows, it also changes. People arriving from different cultures and socio-economic groups outside our own can sometimes be seen as a threat. We need to embrace diverse populations, and resist intolerance and discrimination. Dr Fiona Allon, Research Fellow at the Centre for Cultural Research, University of Western Sydney, emphasized that Manly's identity as a locality is rapidly changing due to technological and other changes such as its relationship with Sydney and beyond.

The ways that people perceive their local area, and their place within it responds to population growth, technological and other advances. Manly today is very much a part of Sydney – even if still a '*Thousand Miles from Care*'. The community faces struggles over 'life space' and 'economic space'.

Our life space is the actual area around us, the street where we live, and also the community areas where people come together such as town squares, parks, gardens or the beach. Life space allows us to have spontaneous as well as planned interactions with other people. It is important to have this space for our physical and mental well-being.

Increasingly, spaces that have been public areas in the past, such as town squares, are 'privatised', such as shopping malls, and they

Living





become economic space. As a consequence these spaces can sometimes exclude particular groups such as young people, older people or those with low socio-economic status. Our public spaces are a limited community resource that needs to be protected and conserved.

When people feel safe being out and about they are more likely to use public areas, and this in turn alters perceptions of crime levels.

Many individuals struggle to balance their economic or working life with spending time with family and friends, participating in leisure and recreation pursuits or spiritual activities. Combined with other preventative measures such as good diet, achieving this life balance can have positive impacts on an individual's physical and mental health. Active communities are very often healthy communities.

Workshop participants discussed the need for grassroots leadership, a local role model, or mentor to inspire people.

1. A Living Manly – inclusive society and culture

"Cities can be lonely and unfriendly places. Councils can play a role in redressing that and Manly Council has made a start. The issues of lifestyle, caring and empowering came through strongly at the Forums. It takes spirit and enthusiasm to build those communities but we have the ideas and staff to bring it about"

Dr Peter Macdonald, Mayor of Manly

Living

Our current position

Manly's population are highly active in community life, and civic processes (See **3. A Well Governed Manly – the role of local government**). In terms of arts, recreation and leisure, Manly Council provides a thriving program of annual cultural events and services, and has permanent facilities like the Manly Art Gallery & Museum, and Manly Library. The Youth Service and **Youth Council** offer programs of activities specifically for young people. Programs to foster social interaction and neighbourhood renewal include the successful **Meet Your Street** Neighbourhood Renewal Program, and joint work with the Department of Housing and NSW Health at the **Gocher Court Fest**.

Manly Council has a **Crime and Safety Committee**, a **Crime Prevention Plan** and many other successful initiatives that are tackling crime and anti-social behaviour locally, working in partnership with organizations such as Manly Police, regional councils and NSW Health, for example:

- Manly After Midnight strategies
- Liquor Licensing Accord
- 'Respect' Code of Conduct
- Pumpkin Bus.

Challenges to achievement

Fiona Allon raised some concerns in achieving the vision:

- in some cases actions are beyond the scope of Council's responsibilities. We need to be realistic about how and to what extent Council can make changes
- achieving a balance of life space and economic space
- responding to social and cultural difference, technological and other advances.

Workshop participants debated related themes:





- a need to build a sense of community ownership
- people need the opportunity and encouragement to enter community activities.

Your suggestions

Workshop participants stated that they wanted fun opportunities to get more involved in community events.

At workshops about arts, leisure and recreation further suggestions were made regarding:

- use of existing buildings for artistic purposes, e.g. Manly Twin Cinema or buildings on the former School of Artillery site, North Head, and continued use of Manly Art Gallery & Museum, promoting artist in residency programs
- links to cultural tourism (See **5. A Visitor Friendly Manly – a place to stop and stay awhile**)
- engaging young people in music, and other entertainment.

2. An Affordable Manly – accommodation for our future

"Housing is the fundamental building block of any community"

Rebecca Richardson and Associate Professor Peter Phibbs, Manly Futures Forum, September 17th 2005

Aims

- To have suitable, affordable housing, which meets the diversity of local residents' needs.
- Sustainable design and process in the urban built and landscaped environment, minimizing resource use and waste whilst maximizing re-use of resources.

Issues of concern

A need for suitable and affordable local accommodation is a concern for Manly, the Northern Beaches region and greater Sydney in future. Rising house prices mean that many are unable to purchase or rent accommodation in Manly. Gentrification has led to low value properties becoming high value properties, where new residents are wealthier than long-term residents.

Associate Professor Peter Phibbs, Sydney University and consultant Rebecca Richardson, an Urban Planner, highlighted that we need local affordable housing for children leaving home, for older retired people and for local workers. Projections for increased population size mean a greater demand for housing generally, creating development pressures.

Our current position

Manly Council is updating its planning documents to include provisions that retain or increase affordable housing as required by NSW Planning Reform. The NSW Metropolitan Strategy addresses planning for population growth and Manly Council has joined with adjacent Councils at Mosman, Pittwater and Warringah to respond with a Regional Inventory and Strategy.

Manly Council has also joined with Warringah Council, the Department of Housing and the Department of Planning in the **Local Government Housing Improvement Program** to produce a report, "The Northern Beaches Key Worker Study". The study explores links between labour markets for low and medium waged workers and high housing costs in our region. A further report "The Regional Housing Strategy" examines mechanisms for addressing affordable housing demand.

Awareness-raising is required to explain why affordable housing is important.

Challenges to achievement

Dr Elizabeth Farrelly, Sydney Morning Herald columnist on architecture and design, identified some 'ideals' that are also conflicts. These involve important trade-offs between desired outcomes:

- to preserve Manly's heritage without over-gentrification
- to keep building densities down and provide affordable housing.

Manly Council needs to think creatively about different options and work with stakeholders to achieve affordable housing, which firstly

Affordable





needs to be negotiated with developers. Once secured, provision for long-term management and operation, possibly by an external provider, will be required to make it effective. Market forces also impact on housing prices.

The Forum omitted to mention the need for adaptable housing. As the population ages and people want to stay in their homes longer, design for accommodation that can meet mobility and other needs is an essential consideration at design stage. Adaptable housing is environmentally sustainable, as buildings can accommodate inhabitants with a range of needs over their lifetime without the need to rebuild, thus minimizing waste generation.

Design for the built and landscaped environment can be environmentally sensitive, and aesthetically pleasing. Urban design can reduce our resource use and associated negative environmental impacts, for example, by using passive heating and cooling.

(See **4. A Natural Manly – a sustainable environment**).

Your suggestions

Manly Council will continue to integrate provisions for affordable and adaptable housing into planning instruments and to undertake related research.

Working with regional and state level agencies we will continue to provide insights into meeting future goals. Reports such as the **Manly Social Plan** provide specific actions and timeframes.

3. A Well Governed Manly – the role of local government

Local government requires elected representatives who not only preside over the administration of specific responsibilities but also have the capacity to act as leaders and exercise a high level of thoughtful and responsible judgment.

Paraphrased from Professor Kevin Sproats, Manly Futures Forum, September 17th 2005.

Aims

To have clear leadership from local government that takes account of and responds to community perspectives and needs, and is working towards our long term goals.

Our current position

Over recent decades local government has experienced rapid changes and taken on wide ranging responsibilities. Manly Council, comprising both the Councillors and the staff, increasingly works with other councils and the State Government on a regional level, and in partnership with other agencies. The development of a **Regional Strategy** with Mosman, Warringah and Pittwater Councils is an example.

Providing information on what we do is a vital communication role of Council, which makes us accountable to our local residents. Leaflets about services, reports, and publicity about events all continue to be made available as a resource for the community.

Manly Council actively consults with local residents on a range of issues, using a variety of means such as Precinct Community Forums (or Precinct Committees), surveys and meetings. Precinct Committees were established in 1990 and are organized by residents. They play a vital role ensuring that residents' views about local services and policies are taken into account.

The Manly Youth Council is effective in engaging young people. Programs are developed in response to particular youth issues such as *spiked drinks*, *stop the violence* and *safe chix.* Social support groups are established in response to young people's needs e.g. Gays and Lesbians at Manly (GLAM).

Technological changes have offered new ways of communicating. The Internet is a two-way interactive medium that residents can use to engage with Council and our website currently acts as an information resource, a way to make a request, a library portal, and a way to pay rates online. There is potential for engagement by the Internet to grow in the future.

Challenges to achievement

In order to continue being effective, Manly Council requires the support and direction of State and Federal Government. Sproats suggested that there were a few challenges to consider:

- clarity about what services local government delivers
- funding, resources, and legislative support from State and Federal Governments.

Similarly, Council must respond to pressures from the State and Federal Governments.

Manly Council needs to innovate with methods of community engagement suitable to specific groups. A workshop participant

Governed





suggested using Citizen's Juries to engage with people when reaching consensus on a decision is required.

Use of the Internet to share information and include people assumes that everyone is online, and is most effective when people are confident using a computer. Without universal internet access and appropriate training, this format presents barriers that are a challenge for many.

Your suggestions

Workshop participants want Council to be a leader, and to explore a range of new media, communication and consultation options in future:

- council's website and other information must be succinct, relevant and easy to navigate. It should attract younger people with weblogs, music and competitions
- council should explore new technologies to provide information to the community
- providing computers in Council buildings as a resource for community members that are not online, and having staff nearby to answer questions gives extra confidence to new users
- continue to use existing methods of engagement, like the Precinct Committees, and investigate new ways for the community to participate and give views, e.g. Citizen's Juries.

4. A Natural Manly – a sustainable environment

"Specifically, Manly is likely to be negatively affected by the impacts of *sea level rise, coastal erosion and retreat* and increases in the *frequency and intensity of coastal storms and floods*"

Dr Dale Dominey Howes, Manly Futures Forum, September 24th 2005 (emphasis in the original)

"Climate change presents opportunities to think differently in relation to the built environment. Architecture and design needs to incorporate new ways of thinking. For example – new buildings need to take account of solar energy and green energy options. Councils need to provide energy incentives. Buildings need to be adapted to accommodate increasing environmental fragility"

Dr Tim Flannery, Manly Futures Forum, September 24th 2005

"Green living doesn't look green. Green living depends on a highly artificial, heavily modified, densely urban environment. It looks more like Bladerunner than Lassie"

Dr Elizabeth Farrelly, Manly Futures Forum, September 24th 2005

"There is no life without water"

Workshop participant, Manly Futures Forum, September 24th 2005

Natural





Introduction

This section will address four distinct, but inter-related issues that are all broadly concerned with the natural environment and sustainability - the protection of existing natural environment, efficient resource use, land use and global climate change.

A summary of the key points from the speakers at the workshops are outlined in this section.

Aims

To encompass the natural environment and a sustainable ecological future, a range of aims are given:

- Manly Council will manage decisions to have the best ecological and social outcomes possible for our community today and in future
- Manly Council will continue to respect and protect the special geodiversity and biodiversity of the local area

4. A Natural Manly – a sustainable environment

- Manly Council will plan to meet the challenges of climate change, and seek to mitigate impacts in line with sustainable development principles.

Our current position

Local residents and Manly Council both have a keen interest in conserving our natural heritage, such as the headlands, creeks, the lagoon, native bushland and coastal areas. Our Plans of Management for Coastline areas, the Sustainability Strategy and the Education for Sustainability Plan are all important components of this approach, and take into account potential impacts on these areas such as coastal erosion and climate change.

Challenges to achievement

There are different challenges involved in dealing with climate change, our decreasing water supply, increasing energy costs and protecting our community's natural ecology for future. Manly is a part of a bigger environment too, and this brings other challenges.

Future climate change

Dr Dale Dominey-Howes is a leading expert in natural hazards, risk and disaster management. He presented an outline of climate change at the Forum, pointing out that it can be natural, following a volcanic eruption for example, but that this is being accelerated by human activities such as burning of fossil fuels, land clearing and agricultural processes. Dominey-Howes stated that because of the ways climate change is measured and projections calculated, it is not possible to say what the future will be for Manly. This leaves a large element of uncertainty, which is a challenge, as clear predictions for the future are not known.

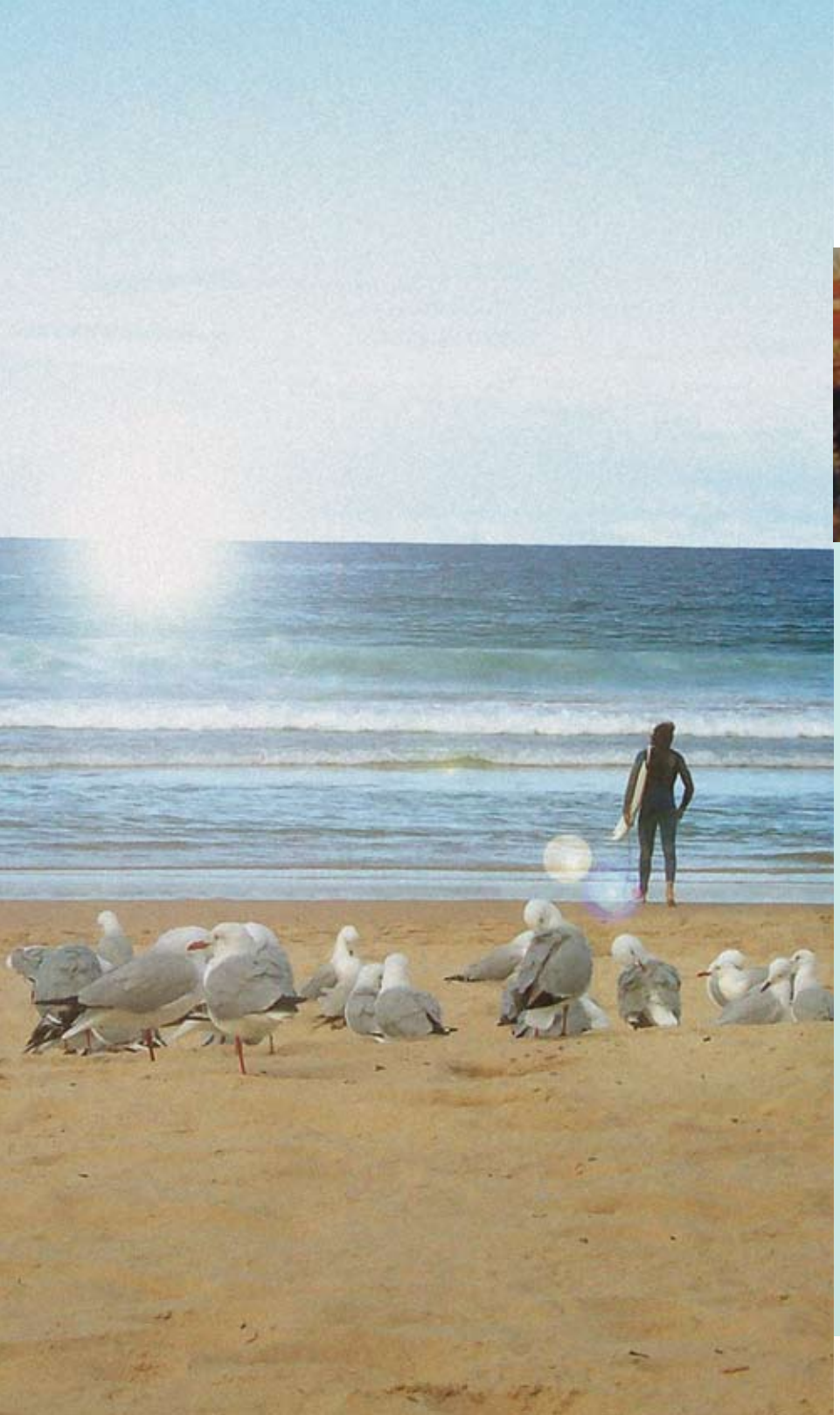
Workshop participants wondered what could be done without timeframes and precise information. Despite predictive uncertainty, Dominey-Howes was certain that climate change is already affecting human communities, and it will continue to have consequences over the rest of the 21st Century, which are:

- sea level rise
- coastal erosion and retreat
- increases in the frequency and intensity of coastal storms and floods
- temperate rise e.g. *'By 2070 the Sydney region may experience temperatures that are on average, as much as 6 degrees celsius warmer than they were in 1990'*
- decrease in rainfall e.g. *'By 2070 our region may experience rainfalls that are, on average, 40% less than they were in 1990'*.

The challenge seems to lie in formulating a realistic response to climate change that acknowledges these changes, that deals effectively with the predictable consequences and that establishes a considered disaster response plan.

Efficient water and energy use

Professor Stuart White, Director, Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney explained that the ways that we think about water need to shift. This is a challenge to achieving efficiencies. This means that a customer does not necessarily want more water, but instead the services that water provides, such as clean clothes, pleasing landscapes and sanitation. We can still achieve these outcomes but need to take action to use water





more efficiently. This can involve managing water use at the end point, by taking steps to reduce flows such as tap regulators and water efficient shower heads. It can also involve other steps to re-use water which ordinarily would be wasted, for instance to irrigate public parks and gardens.

None of the speakers tackled energy efficiency directly. As climate changes, there may be an increase in energy requirements for heating and cooling property.

Broadly, approaches to energy efficiency can follow a similar path to that which White applied to water, for example minimizing end use by using energy efficient electrical goods.

Biodiversity and the natural environment

Dr Tim Flannery, Director of the South Australian Museum and Professor at the University of Adelaide, presented ideas on conserving the natural bushland and wildlife

4. A Natural Manly – a sustainable environment

of North Head, with reference to models that have been developed by the Australian Wildlife Conservancy. Council plays a role by hosting the North Head Sanctuary Foundation, of which it is a founding member, which is actively seeking the creation of a sanctuary over all public land on North Head.

Your suggestions

Suggestions for 'eco-initiatives' from experts and the community alike were wide ranging. Three main areas were identified by the workshop as being of importance, water, energy and greenhouse, and environmental protection, and these points have been combined with expert's suggestions below.

Future climate change

In line with recommendations from the Australian Greenhouse Office, Dominey-Howes makes the following recommendations for Manly in relation to climate change:

- making changes to building and infrastructure design standards to protect against more extreme weather events, such as storm surges and east coast lows
- avoiding building in areas where flooding is likely to occur frequently
- increasing capacity of natural systems e.g. wetlands, to adapt to climate change by reducing other environmental stresses on those systems.

Furthermore, workshop participants noted:

- have a plan especially for sea level rise and storm-water management – disaster planning – integrating approaches for projected sea level rise, and extreme events
- ensure realism and application of the precautionary principles.

Efficient water and energy use

White made suggestions for Manly Council to implement water efficiency such as:

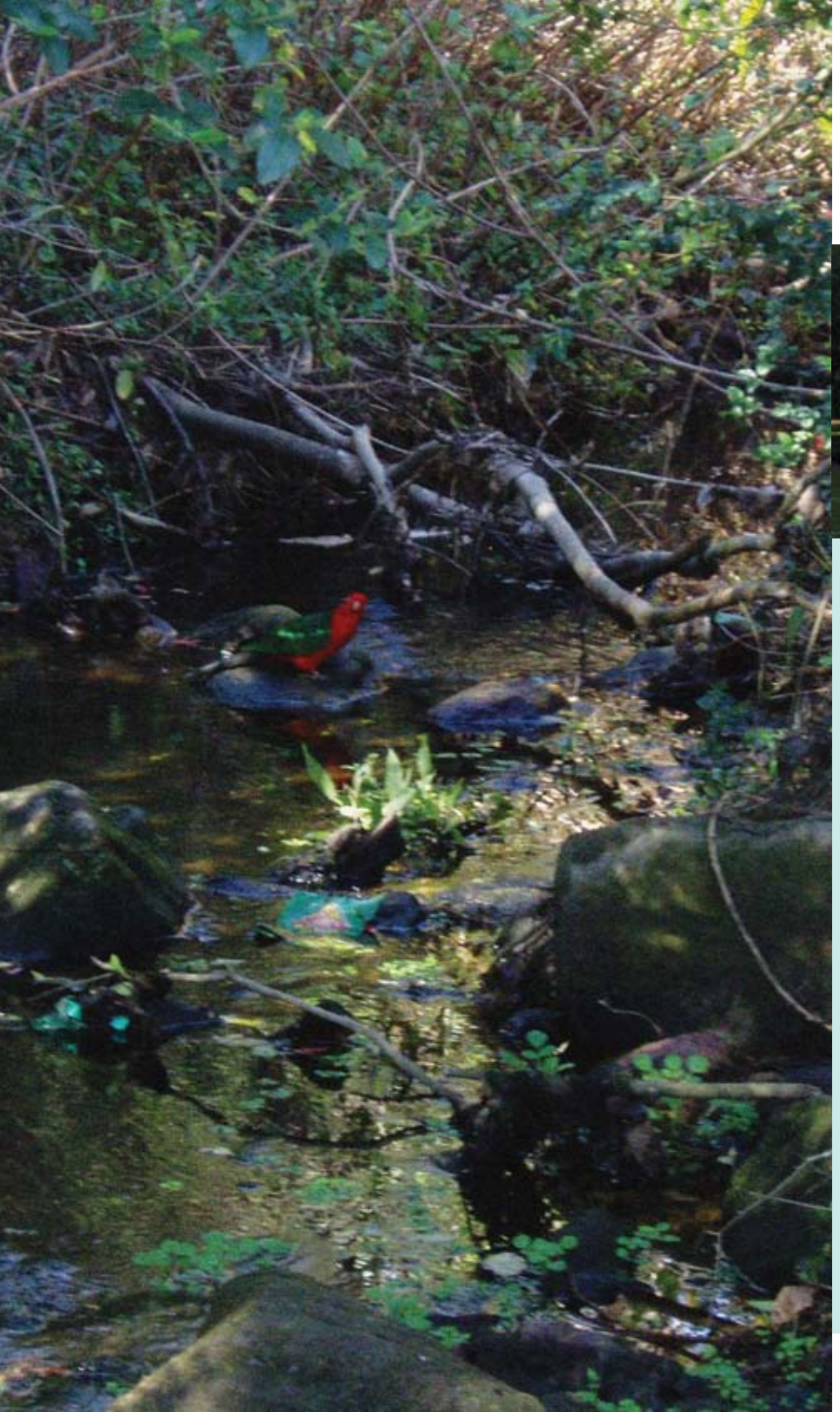
- setting an example for the community – through water efficiency and source substitution in buildings, interpretive displays, reporting, benchmarking
- use of development consent conditions - performance requirements.
- working with utilities and state agencies - informed advocacy and collaboration
- storm water responsibilities - rain tanks as a hybrid on site detention and water supply source
- supporting innovation in new subdivisions and infill developments - planned and managed wastewater treatment and reuse and distributed storm water capture integrated into the water supply.

'Eco-initiative' workshop participants also came up with some similar suggestions for water efficiencies such as:

- road surface water capture for re-use, with the potential to recycle it in different grades for re-use for example in irrigation, and even investigate the possibility of re-sale to external agencies.

Mandates for efficient water use, such as rain water tanks, and financial penalties for high water use were suggested, however, this type of action is a State Government responsibility, so Council can best play a role by lobbying for these actions to be undertaken.

Natural





In terms of efficient energy use and an associated reduction in greenhouse emissions, workshop participants came up with these suggestions:

- a request for a clear statement about the effects of greenhouse
- mandatory retro-fitting with development assessments
- continue to showcase initiatives such as Solar House Days.

State Government legislation provides environmental standards for buildings which Council can mandate. Additional measures above and beyond legislation are advisory, not obligatory.

Biodiversity and the natural environment

Participants at workshops suggested that there should be financial subsidies to encourage the use of native plants.

5. A Visitor Friendly Manly – a place to stop and stay awhile

"73% of visitors are domestic, many living within 1 hour of Manly"

Associate Professor Robyn Bushell,
Manly Futures Forum, September 17th 2005

Aims

To plan for visitors and tourism to maintain Manly as an attractive destination, without compromising our natural environment, built heritage and sense of community

Issues of concern

Manly has a long history as a visitor and tourist destination, but this has changed over time, and it now attracts international tourists and backpackers along with day visitors. Robyn Bushell, who is Head of Tourism for Healthy Futures at the University of Western Sydney, discussed tourism at the Forum and stated the following:

- Manly attracts between 3 and 5.5 million visitors a year, which has an impact on local infrastructure (lighting, traffic, water and sewage, cleaning) and community life. Down the track this brings social, environmental and economic costs to local agencies and the community
- along with a high volume of visitors and tourists are perceived and actual 'increases' – for example, an increase in motor vehicle use; meaning traffic congestion and parking difficulties; and, an increase in litter with a negative impact on visual amenity and pollution
- day visitors for major events, public holidays and school holidays.

Our current position

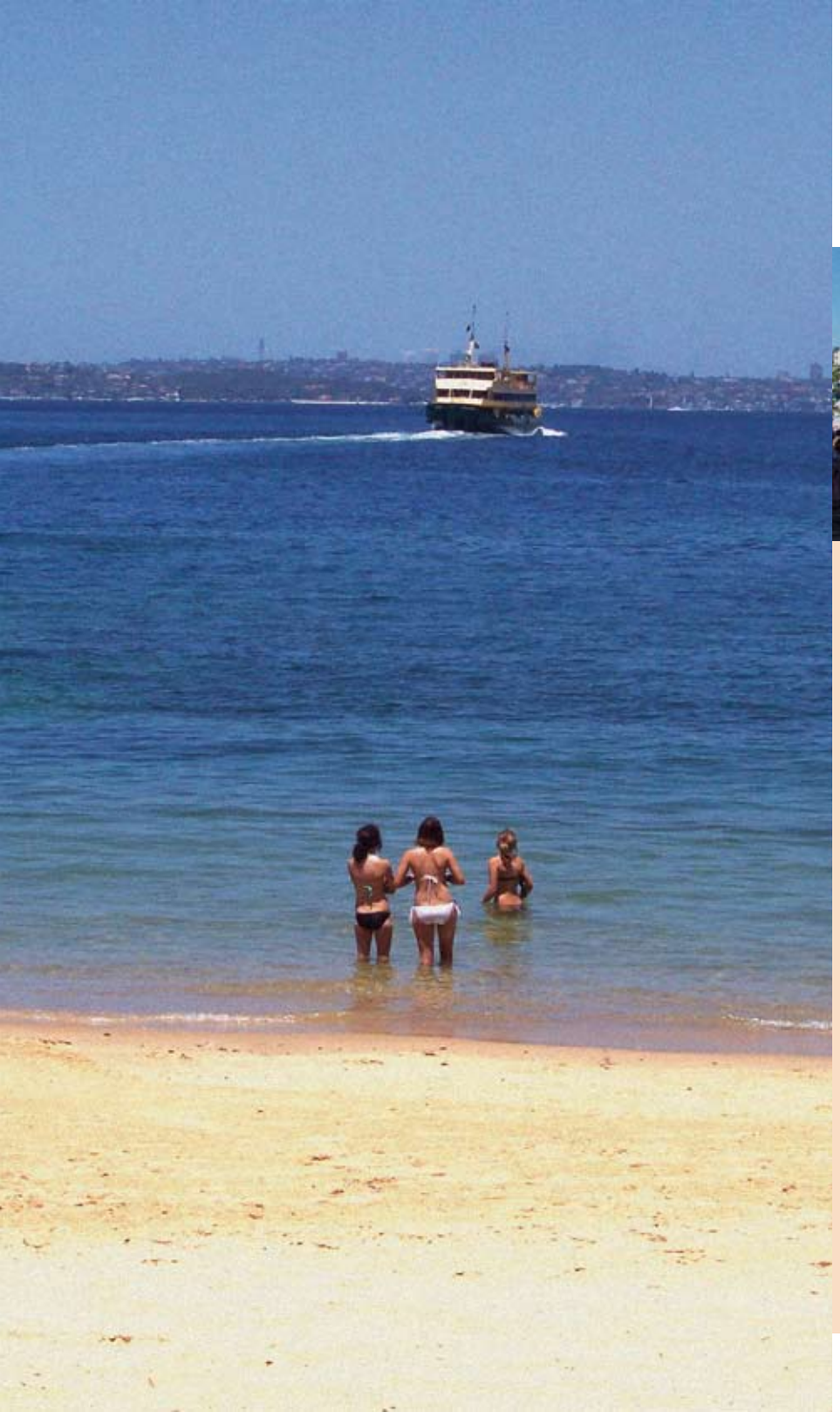
Bushell outlined that the beach, natural and built heritage, amenities and facilities in Manly are what attracts visitors, tourists and local residents alike. Protection of the natural environment is strongly linked to the quality of life for Manly residents although this conflicts with certain types of tourism that attract people to the very areas that need protection, placing them under increased stress.

The benefits of tourism to local residents in Manly are significant, as visitors and tourists contribute to economic growth and generate tourism based employment. Manly has a tradition of entertainment, and hosting cultural events like the **Manly Jazz Festival, Food and Wine Festival** and these annual festivals and celebrations are important to residents and visitors and tourists alike. The range of restaurants and cafes is also a benefit associated with tourists, and contributes to Manly's 'cosmopolitan' atmosphere.

However, the increase in tourists can effect infrastructure (such as transport, energy, water, and waste).

Manly Council has recently embarked on a program of sustainable tourism that will encourage business to take greater consideration of environmental impacts and resource use.

Visitor





Sea Change for Sustainable Tourism will assist businesses to identify financial savings and opportunities to increase efficiencies, and to foster practices that achieve compatibility between tourism, the environment and local resident amenity.

It is difficult to separate impacts from tourists and residents. Changing perceptions about tourism 'myths', where tourists are responsible for all negative impacts, day visitors are 'less desirable' than others, and, all day visitors coming from 'the west', were clearly identified by Robyn Bushell.

Your suggestions

Bushell made some practical recommendations for managing tourism:

- achieve greater levels of communication and awareness
- engage in more partnerships e.g. with the Chamber of Commerce, the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, Sydney Ferries, National Parks and Wildlife Service
- provide greater incentives for protecting what is valued
- find collective solutions to: late night drinking, parking, litter, income generation
- encourage and reward socially and environmentally responsible business practices
- specifically build on shared values
- specifically target identified issues
- build the capacity of tourist operators.

6. A Moving Manly – transport, access, getting around

"[People] like Manly's specialness, its peninsular nature, its sense of remoteness. But at the same time they recognize the need for access, especially for business to survive, and worry about the traffic jams that this access brings"

Dr Elizabeth Farrelly, Manly Futures Forum, September 24th 2005

Introduction

There was an absence of speakers addressing the specific issue of transportion at the Forum. However several presentations did refer to issues of transport, and some participants at the workshops commented on this topic.

Aims

To facilitate the use of sustainable transport that minimizes negative social and environmental effects, and improves access for all ages.

Our current position

Transport and access is an area for which Manly Council has some responsibility, whilst service delivery resides with other agencies like the bus and ferry companies.

Manly Council has a Bike Committee and a map has been produced to show the growing network of bike paths.

Manly Council also has activities to promote sustainable transport, such as the annual Bike Day.

Challenges to achievement

Dr Elizabeth Farrelly made reference to the conflict between using motor vehicles and the problems associated with them, stating that people recognize that retail requires on-street parking but worry about the pollution, traffic jams and ugliness that catering to the car entails.

The Futures Forum Committee raised additional challenges:

- can public transport be better integrated?
- is there a way to better utilise our physical environment to promote walking, pedal bike use, etc.
- what are the safety issues?

Your suggestions

Flannery stated that reducing polluting emissions involves increased use of public transport, the development of bike tracks and that Council could lead by example by purchasing a fleet of hybrid fuel cars.

Workshop participants suggested that Manly needs the following:

Moving





- a bike initiative
- people to be able to take their bikes on buses
- better bus links to ferries
- bike paths shared with pedestrians.

Some of these suggestions are being addressed, for instance through the **Bike Plan** and the annual **Bike Day** community event.

Other suggestions for Council from workshop participants include:

- introduction of staff incentives to car pool, using public transport or walking to work
- leading the provision of "community buses" in the local area.

Further, a committee member recommended measures such as making streets one way to enable conversion to green space for residential amenity and a need to recognize scooter chairs as footpath vehicles.

Next Steps - evaluating progress

To know how successfully the six opportunities identified have progressed, we will need to monitor and evaluate.

Evaluation plays an important role in decision making and assists better management.

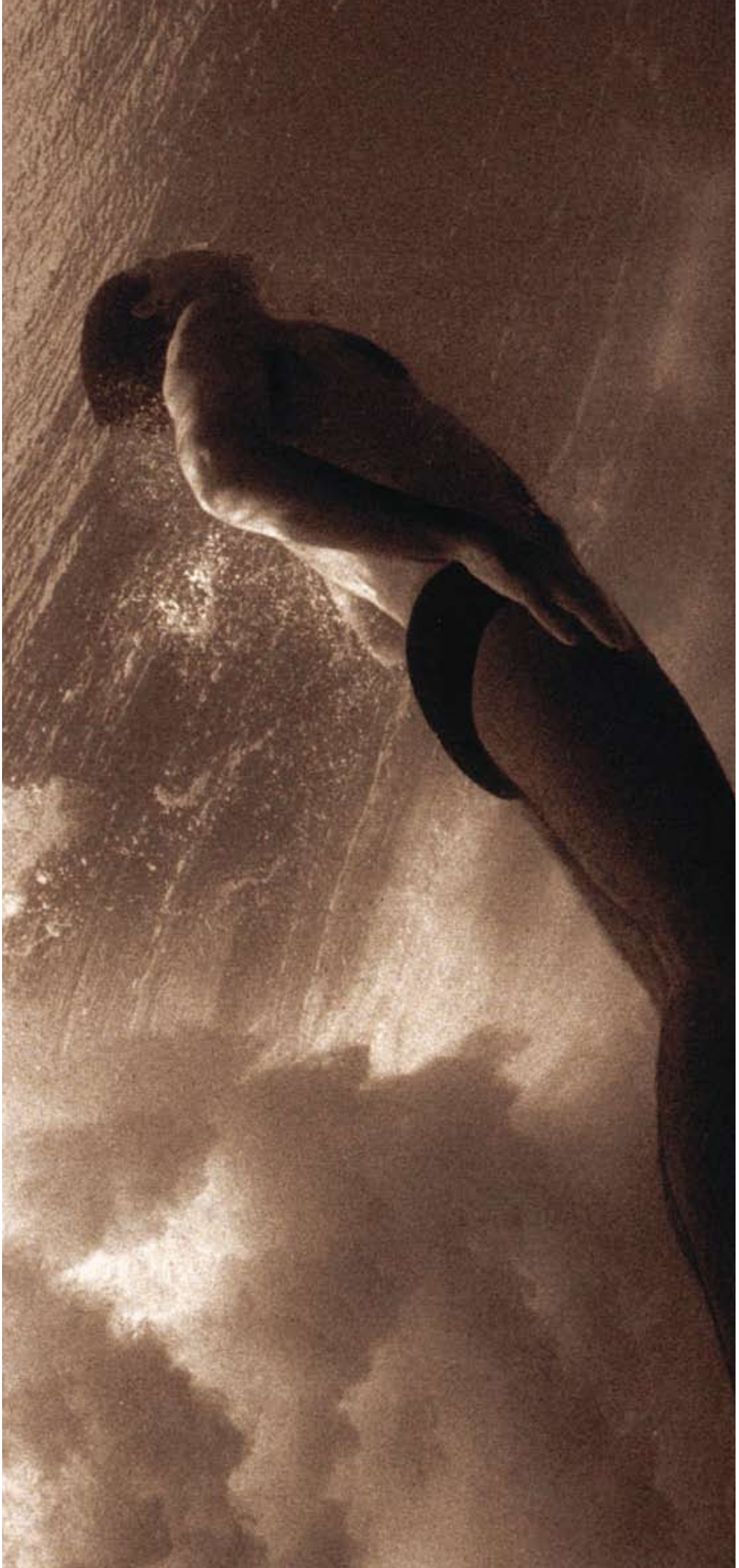
Depending on the topic, different methods of evaluation can be chosen such as:

- measuring - outputs or outcomes according to targets
- objective driven - achievement of the agreed goals
- needs oriented – focusing on whether needs are met.

Monitoring our progress and evaluating our success already plays a vital role at Council, which is why we continue to talk to local people about what they want in Manly.

Over the next 25 years there will be regular reviews to help us recognise achievements towards our Vision.

David Jenkins, Nomad Photography, **Body Surfer**



Appendix

References

Curby, P. **Seven Miles From Sydney, A History of Manly**, Manly Council, Headline Press, Brookvale, Sydney, (2001)

Forum Speakers (in order of appearance)

This section provides a list of the Manly Futures Forum events speakers and their presentation titles, with brief biographies of the speakers:

September 17th 2005:

Associate Professor Peter Phibbs and Rebecca Richardson
Affordable Housing Futures

Professor Kevin Sproats
Local Government Futures: A Call For Responsive Governance

Associate Professor Robyn Bushell
Tourism Futures for Manly Local Government Area

September 23rd 2005:

Keynote speaker: Dr Tim Flannery,
Biodiversity Conservation In The Suburbs - The Importance Of Partnerships

Dr Dale Dominey-Howes and Professor Stuart White
The Coast, The Dam And In-between

Demographer Shane Nugent and Dr Fiona Allon
Demographic And Cultural Change

Keynote speaker: Dr Elizabeth Farrelly
Before The Flood: Settling Sydney's Future

Speaker Biographies (in alphabetical order)

Dr Fiona Allon

Dr Fiona Allon is a writer, filmmaker and academic. She is currently a Research Fellow at the Centre for Cultural Research, University of Western Sydney, a research centre specialising in community and industry research partnerships. Her area of expertise is contemporary cultural change. She has written widely on topics as diverse as fashion and popular culture, globalisation and tourism, and cultural and technological change. She has also taught at universities in Australia, the UK, and Germany.

Associate Professor Robyn Bushell

Associate Professor Robyn Bushell is the Head of Tourism for Health Futures at the School of Environment, Agriculture and World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health, University of Western Sydney.

She has been involved in tertiary education for over 30 y ears and has worked with a range of national and international bodies related to tourism planning, heritage conservation, community development and community training.

Over the years Robyn has undertaken several major research projects in Manly, including the recent Triple Bottom Line study for Manly Council and a joint partnership with Manly Council and Manly Chamber of Commerce funded by the NSW Environmental Trust to ensure more sustainable outcomes from tourism.

Dr Dale Dominey-Howes

Dr Dale Dominey-Howes FGS FRGS is an expert in natural hazards, risk and vulnerability and disaster management. Dale graduated with a BSc (Honours) from London University and was awarded his PhD in natural hazards from Coventry University (UK).

Since 2000, Dale has been the elected Secretary and Treasurer of the International Society for the Prevention and Mitigation of Natural Hazards. In 1999, he was nominated and then selected as one of the Most Outstanding Young Research Scientists in the 1999 British Parliament, Showcase of the Best of British Science at the House of Commons London. Dale is presently a senior lecturer in Natural Hazards in the Department of Physical Geography at Macquarie University (Sydney).

Dr Elizabeth Farrelly

Dr Elizabeth Farrelly, Sydney Morning Herald columnist on architecture and design, has won a number of international awards for criticism. She is a former Assistant Editor of ***The Architectural Review*** in London and Sydney City Councillor and has written a monograph on Glenn Murcutt (***Three Houses***, Phaidon, 1993). Her PhD from the University of Sydney examined Sydney's transformation from low rise to high rise buildings. She is currently writing, teaching and working on a variety of projects including books, lectures and documentaries.

Appendix

Speaker Biographies (in alphabetical order)

Dr Tim Flannery

Tim Flannery is one of Australia's leading thinkers and writers. An internationally acclaimed scientist, explorer and conservationist, he has published more than 90 scientific papers and written many books including definitive ecological histories of Australia (***The Future Eaters***) and North America (***The Eternal Frontier***) and the landmark essay ***Beautiful Lies: Population and Environment in Australia***. Tim Flannery is Director of the South Australian Museum and Professor at the University of Adelaide.

Demographer Shane Nugent

Shane Nugent is a demographer and urban planner with over 25 years experience in demographic analysis and research in the Australian Capital Territory, Northern Territory and New South Wales. He is currently the Senior Demographer in the Transport and Population Data Centre, NSW Department of Planning, where he is part of the team responsible for projections of future populations and provision of demographic advice to the NSW Government.

Associate Professor Peter Phibbs

Associate Professor Peter Phibbs is a social economist with a background in demography, who has worked in the area of housing need and housing market analysis for the last twenty years. His most recent work in this area is a housing study for Manly Warringah. He is a Director of the Home Modifications and Maintenance Information Clearinghouse at the University of Sydney and in that capacity has examined the housing needs of older households in some detail. He provides demographic advice to a number of agencies, most recently the NSW Solicitor General. He also provides advice on housing development feasibility analysis – he has recently completed an evaluation of the Village Vue development in Gunghalin for Community Housing Canberra, ACT.

Rebecca Richardson

Rebecca Richardson is an urban planner and lawyer with wide-ranging experience in housing. She has coordinated a range of local, regional and national projects to develop housing policies, strategies and innovative delivery models, as well as being involved in legislation, financial modelling of housing projects and implementation of urban development projects. Her experience includes working with Indigenous communities, local government and state housing agencies to develop and implement housing initiatives, assisting with the

National Summit on Housing Affordability, serving as Secretary for the NSW Ministerial Task Force on Affordable Housing, playing an instrumental role in the establishment of the City West Housing Company, and planning and managing large scale inner city redevelopment projects. She recently led a project team in a study of housing needs in both Manly and Warringah. The study investigated approaches available to Councils for promoting affordable housing.

Professor Kevin Sproats

Professor Kevin Sproats is the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Campus Development) at the University of Western Sydney (UWS). He joined UWS in 1998 as Professor of Local and Regional Governance. His main role at UWS is now focussed on the University's campuses and their development. Prior to his current role he was Director of Regional Development and Director of the Whitlam Institute within UWS. He holds academic qualifications in surveying, urban and regional planning and public policy. He is a Fellow of Planning Institute Australia.

Professor Stuart White

Professor Stuart White, Director of the Institute for Sustainable Futures, undertakes research in the area of resource efficiency and community-based solutions to urban sustainability issues.He has been instrumental in designing or implementing three of Australia's most comprehensive water efficiency programs, in Kalgoorlie-Boulder in Western Australia, for Rous County Council on the north coast of New South Wales, and through the development of a least cost planning study for Sydney Water Corporation. He leads a research team which specialises in the development of water efficiency programs and urban water end-use modeling for water utilities, in addition to other projects in the specific area of sustainable resource use.

Futures Forum Committee Members (in alphabetical order)

Professor Valerie Brown,
Manly Scientific Advisory Panel member

Cr Simon Cant, Manly Council

Sally Chilvers, community member

Cr Adele Heaseman, Manly Council

Richard Hewitt, community member

Denise Keen, community member

Cr Dr Judy Lambert, Manly Council

Connie Lau, Strategic Planner, Manly Council

Dr Peter Macdonald, Mayor of Manly,
Futures Forum Committee Chair

Julie Meldrum, community member

Jennie Minifie, Manager Planning and Strategy,
Manly Council

Dr Peter Mitchell, Manly Scientific Advisory Panel member

Peter Monckton, community member

Associate Professor Jan Ritchie,
Manly Scientific Advisory Panel member

Simon Weaving, community member

Harriet Westcott, Social Planner, Manly Council

Henry Wong, General Manager, Manly Council