Community Report 2003/2004

A message from the Mayor

The formation of a new Manly Council at the Local Government Elections held on 27 March 2004 has ushered in an era of unprecedented opportunity, bringing to Council fresh talent and a valuable mix of skills, experience and ability which has already begun to serve the people of this community very well.

In the reporting period, Council has achieved noteworthy successes.

Council won a swag of awards in 2003-2004 in recognition of its efforts in **preserving our environment**, including a *National Office for Local Government Innovation Award* (for the *Hop In And Help Manly Lagoon Project*), two *Metro Pride Awards*, the *Clean Beach Challenge Award*, the *Friendly Beach Award*, and the *NSW Sustainable Energy Development Silver Globe Award* among others.

Manly Council was successful in its application for State Government grant funding for *Manly Lagoon Rehabilitation Works*, a *Manly Ocean Beach Coastline Management Study & Coastline Management Plan*, and the *North Head Loop & Cabbage Tree Bay Landscaping Works*.

Indeed, Manly Council was selected to feature in a Local Government & Shires Association sustainability education video outlining several of Manly Council's key environmental projects.

Council established Working Parties with community representation to develop policies and strategies towards a **reduction in plastic bag usage** with a view to Manly becoming a 'plastic bag free zone'; and separately an initiative to **ban smoking** on Manly beaches, playgrounds, sporting venues and other events.

Council recently established a **Manly After Midnight Working Party** to prepare a policy and draft management plan to regulate activities in the Manly Central Business District late at night with a view to ensuring that public amenity, public safety and security, and public enjoyment and convenience are maintained and improved.

The Working Party draws on the input of all sections of the community on how to best manage activities in the Manly Town Centre during the late night hours.

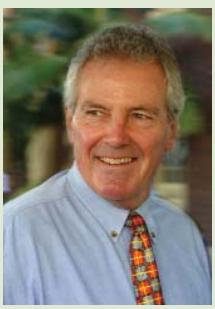
Council is in excellent financial shape, holding substantial restricted cash reserves and our loan servicing costs have been substantially reduced.

Of course, we must also face the fact that the revenue of local councils is substantially controlled by the State Government while our operating costs continue to grow due to market pressure.

I thank the Councillors, in particular the former Mayor Councillor Jean Hay, the General Manager and Council staff for their cooperation, commitment and dedication.

There are significant challenges ahead for Manly as it feels the pressure of development and the impacts of its own popularity.

The decisions made during the term of this Council must reflect our determination to protect and enhance the amenity of Manly for future generations.



Dr Peter Macdonald
Mayor



Manly Environment Centre



Surf Life Saving



Youth dance troupe



Buskers



Nippers

Our Community


Manly Ocean Beach Promenade

Manly's Community Profile

The Manly local government area is approximately 16.2 square kilometres which is bounded by the Oceanfront, Sydney Harbour, Middle Harbour, Burnt Bridge Creek and Manly Lagoon.

The estimated resident population of Manly is 38,868 (ABS June 2003). Manly consists mainly of English speaking residents, with the most common second languages being Greek, Italian and Chinese.

In the 2001 Census, 93 people were identified as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders.

The age distribution for residents has changed over the last 10 year period, with the median age being 37.2 years (ABS June 2002).

Community Events in 2003/2004

Manly Council held civic events to celebrate, entertain and to encourage community involvement in the local area including:

- 10 Citizenship ceremonies
- 120 community events and activities
- The Manly Food & Wine Festival and Jazz Festival
- The Manly Arts Festival
- Anzac Day
- Australia Day
- The Guringai Festival

Our Sister Cities

Manly has Sister Cities in Japan, China and the United Kingdom.

Each year a reciprocal student exchange with our Friendship City of Odawara in Japan is organised.

The Odawara students' visit to Manly gives them opportunities to enhance their language skills and experience a different culture.

In July 2003, 25 Manly students travelled to Odawara, with 24 Odawara students visiting Manly in August 2003.

In November 2003, 22 young students from our Sister City of Taito Ku in Japan sent vibrant artworks to Manly. These were exhibited at the Manly Art Gallery & Museum. In April 2004, seven members from the Audit Bureau of the Jing'an District Government in Shanghai, China, were welcomed to Manly.

Customer Service - a total commitment

Council's Customer Service Centre operates from 8.30am to 5.00pm each working day, serving up to 2000 people every month. Access to services through technology has been increased and improved.

Council's website is a major source of information and access point to services for many residents. On line services include making rate and bill payments, an events calendar, business paper access and customer action requests to let Council know of matters quickly and easily, providing a follow up number for residents. Links provide access to the latest Council news and publications, community information, forms and a Discussion Board for Precinct Executive Community Forum use.

The use of technology has improved the Development Application process. Compact discs available from our Customer Service Centre provide information and forms required for the easy lodgment of Development Applications in PDF format.

In order to provide improved access to parking for residents, Council has introduced new Resident Parking Permits across five local areas. Permits are available to eligible residents from the Customer Service Centre and permit applications are available on Council's website at www.manly.nsw.gov.au


Customer Service Team

Manly's Built Environment

During 2003-2004, Council received 605 development applications ranging from minor residential works to major developments in Manly.

All applications require assessment as to the likely effects on the natural, built, social and economic environment.

Council has reviewed its assessment procedures and monitored processing times as our ongoing commitment to ensure sustainable quality outcomes.

Development Application enquiries

A **Special Service Officer** was appointed to handle enquiries and to assist in the application process.

A direct telephone development enquiry number (9976 1586 - operating 11.00am to 5.00pm weekdays) was established as the key contact point for liaison between the public and application assessment officers. A dedicated email address (myda@manly.nsw.gov.au.) was set up to deal with planning and building related questions and to receive copies of public submissions relating to applications.

Development Application processing times

As at 30 June 2004, as a result of the review of processing procedures, the median processing time for Development Applications was reduced to 93 days.



Rialto Square

Tracking your DA 'on line'

Our website (www.manly.nsw.gov.au) lets you to perform real-time searches by application number or property address for current information about individual Development Applications.

Planning Issues

Major environmental planning and assessment issues addressed during 2003/2004 included:

- The 'Totem' centre at Balgowlah
- Development within precincts of the St Patrick's Estate

Planning and Strategy

A diverse range of cultural heritage conservation work was commenced, including a general review of properties identified in the Manly Heritage Study which formed the basis of the listings in the Manly Local Environment Plan 1988. Council's strategic town planning codes consists of a Local Environmental Plan (LEP) setting the broad parameters together with a series of Development Control Plans (DCP) to give detailed guidance to development planning.

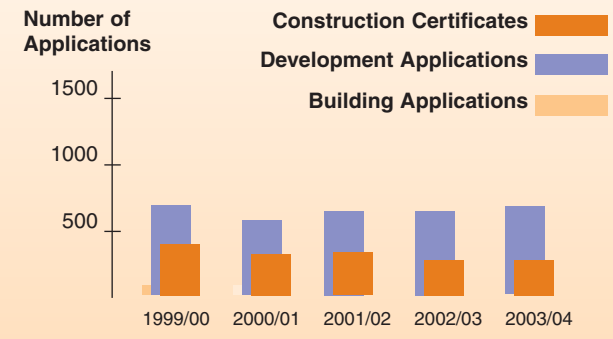
A broad review of these documents commenced in 2004 with a view to consolidating and updating the information.

Landscape Improvements

Landscape Management Plans were developed for refurbishments at Shelly Beach and the widening of the footpath in South Steyne to better cater for pedestrians.

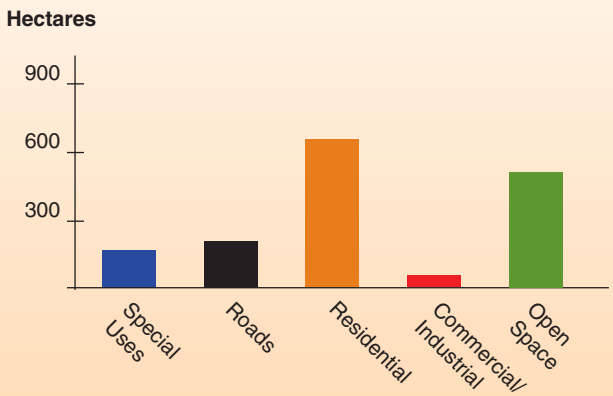
Stage Three of the Ocean Beach promenade works commenced from The Corso intersection along the beachfront to North Steyne Surf Club.

Development Applications & Construction Certificates



Note: *Due to legislative changes there was a decrease in the number of Building Applications determined, however, Construction Certificates were introduced.*

Landuse Zonings in Manly



Environmental initiatives

The Manly Environment

The Manly Sustainability Strategy and associated Management Plans continue to guide Council's sustainability programme.

There have been 82 major Council Environmental Levy Projects undertaken since 1997 with many recognised nationally for their innovation.

Council spent $1,578,625 on Environment Levy projects in 2003/04 including:

Developing five **Plans of Management** in consultation with the Community, including plans for Seaforth Oval, Tania Park, Keirle Park, and Coastline Management Plans for Forty Baskets and Little Manly Cove, with North Harbour, Manly Ocean Beach Catchment Management Plans well advanced.

SeaChange, a joint initiative for stormwater pollution prevention with the University of Western Sydney and the NSW Stormwater Trust, uses Council's stormwater pollution prevention tools including monitoring, street sweeping, gross pollutant traps, pit inserts, education, regulation and water sensitive urban design. This initiative is being now expanded throughout Manly.

Council's **Water Conservation Programme** including installing water saving devices in Manly's community amenities. The waterless urinal trial at Manly Beach Public Toilets, has seen a 70 per cent reduction in water consumption. This initiative is to be expanded to 15 sites across Manly, saving $30,000 (30,000 kilolitres) per annum.

The **Alternative Water Resources Programme** includes the use of water tanks, reuse of stormwater and the sustainable use of ground water rigorously monitored by the University of Western Sydney.

Manly and Warringah Councils, together with all Manly Lagoon catchment managers, have developed the **Integrated Catchment Management Strategy**. The strategy incorporates all existing plans, strategies and water quality monitoring programmes into a single strategy for implementation.

The **Revive the Reeds** programme involved 1,114 volunteer labour hours and included the planting of 2,990 native plants along the catchment.

The **Education for Sustainability Strategy** programme, coordinated by Council's **Manly Environment Centre** includes:

- quarterly **Community Sustainable Living Workshops**
- a **Community Gardens** programme with the Manly Village Primary School, and a Community Gardens Network formed.
- **Starboard Right and Green** recreational boat users education programme.
- **Bricks and Water** building site sediment control programme.
- the **School's Sustainability Youth Forum** and **Catchment Snapshots** youth sustainability education projects.
- **Ocean Care Day** included an 'expo' of green products, sea conservation talks and other events.

The **Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) - Plus Programme** was completed addressing climate change and greenhouse issues. Council also completed implementation of **energy conservation measures**, including the installation of **solar boosted heating** for amenities at the Manly Andrew 'Boy' Charlton Swim Centre.

Environment Indicators

Environmental Indicator	1996/97	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	Movement towards sustainability
Cleanliness of our beaches Average % Compliance (Bacteria) • Ocean Beaches • Harbour Beaches	 • 96.27% • 96.27%	 • 97.65% • 96.05%	 • 100.00% • 98.57%	 • 96.7% • 96.50%	 • 98.125% • 100.00%	 ✓ ✓
Number of stormwater outlets into water body with no pollution control device	56	23	18	18	18	✓
Total Water Consumption for Manly LGA (megalitres)	4.37	5.21	5.11	5.30	4.53	✓
Number of new native plantings in the LGA		14,000 +	14,120	15,538	10,495 due to drought	✓
Number of crime incidents (rate per 100,000 population)		7656.4	7870.2	7196.1	6294.8	✓
Total Volume Domestic Waste sent to landfill (tonnes)	6,052.6	6,148.7	6,205.1	6,082.4	6835.4 new methodology	✓

Services to Households

Waste Services

Council entered into a three-year **Enterprise Agreement** with our waste collection staff. The agreement introduced enhancements to work practices and a commitment to continuous improvement to the daily challenges of waste generation and collection.

Changes were made to the domestic waste and recycling collection arrangement in January 2004.

Domestic waste and recycling are collected on the same day each week, minimising possible disruption to residents in the early morning hours.

A **Zero Waste Policy** was endorsed by Council, aiming to eliminate all waste material within a ten year period, with the implementation strategy being developed.

Mobile Garbage Bins were provided to all residents in June 2004, for the disposal of their household waste.

Fifty-five percent of all waste material generated by residents was diverted from landfill to recycling, maintaining Manly Council's excellent record of waste minimisation.

Waste Education

Council's Waste Education team participated in a number of campaigns targeted at waste minimisation policies in schools. This education campaign has increased community interest in home composting and worm farming, and promoted reusable alternatives to plastic bags.

Civic Services

Major works commenced and undertaken during the year included:

- Upgrading the Manly Senior Citizen's Centre
- Commenced the installation of a lift to the first floor of Council Chambers
- Commenced the re-development of the former Manly Council Depot site
- 1,653 drainage pits were cleaned
- 6,724 square metres of footpath were repaired
- Improvements and widening of the cycleway network at Lagoon Park provided an additional 1,250 square metres of network track
- Road resealing and footpath construction programme
- 700 metres of fence and hand-rail were maintained
- 575 square metres of graffiti were removed.
- 155 hours spent on seat and shelter maintenance
- Widening of 1,364 square metres of Manly Scenic Walkway
- Over 2,000 signs and banners were erected
- 8,000 cubic metres of sand dredging in Manly Lagoon
- 20 bicycle racks installed
- Keirle Park Skate Bowl extension was completed

Community Facilities

Council's properties that have been renewed and upgraded, included:

- Rolling out 86 new bus shelters.
- The Manly National, The Peninsula, Pacific Waves and Whistler Parking Stations attracting 1.1 million patrons.
- The Columbarium at Manly Cemetery being extended to provide another 22 niches

Parks & Bushland Maintenance

- 6,900 new plants planted
- Improvement works to reduce stormwater run off and nutrient loading at Nolans Bush, Tania Park Bush Regeneration sites and Sandy Bay / Clontarf Reserve
- Fire hazard reduction pile burns at Bantry Reserve and eight other bushland sites
- Sister Cities tree planting in Odawarra Place
- Increased colour plantings to Town Centre with bulbs and annual displays and ongoing maintenance to Reserves

Cleansing Services

A new street sweeper commenced its work of sweeping of all precincts every quarter, or four times a year.

A new fleet of smaller sweepers were purchased to clean The Corso and CBD area.

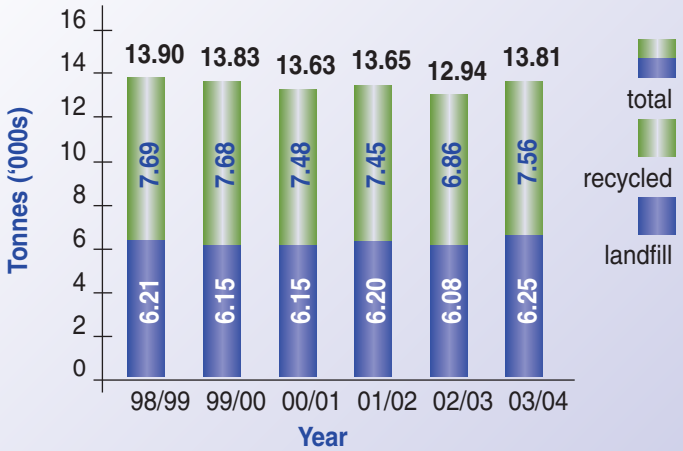
Beach cleansing equipment was introduced for cleaner beaches.

100 cubic metres of litter and debris were collected monthly from our waterways.

Our Award-winning Clean Beaches

Manly Council won the Overall Award in the Sydney Division of the 2003 *Keep Australia Beautiful* **Clean Beaches Award**.

Manly's Domestic Waste Collection



Domestic waste tonnages reported exclude estimated domestic waste/recycling volumes from commercial premises

Community Services

Manly provides a diverse range of services which caters to all sections of the community.

Beach Services

Council's lifeguard services at South and North Steyne and Queenscliff beaches recorded a year without a drowning. Lifeguards conducted **682 rescues**, **24,200 preventable actions** and administered **430 first aid treatments** to our beach patrons.

Children's Services

Council's Children's Services programme educated and cared for many of the communities' 0-12 year old children during 2003/04.

Early Childhood Childcare services prepared children for entry into formal schooling in February 2004.

Our achievements included opening the **Harbour View Children's Centre** at Ross Street Seaforth in April 2004.

The reconstruction and recovery of the **Roundhouse Childcare Centre** was completed.

Youth Services

Council's Youth Services team programmes catered for a diversity of groups, including the **Club Friday** disability recreation and respite programme, an **Adolescent and Family Counselling Service**, the **GL@M** (Gays and Lesbians at Manly) support programme, and the **Clearway Friday** night drop in.

Manly Youth Council, representing young people's views, combined its talents and energy into the following events;

- *Youth Week*
- the *Manly Arts Festival*
- the *Steer Clear / Arrive Alive* road safety project
- Violence prevention projects,
- Successful concerts and band nights, and
- The *Summer Bus Awareness Project*.

Services for Older Adults and People with Disabilities

The Manly **Meals on Wheels** service, which was relocated to newly refurbished premises at the Manly Senior Citizens Centre, delivered over 160 meals per day to Manly residents.

The **Community Restaurant** has been meeting in St Matthews Church, The Corso, and provided meals to approximately 35 senior community members each Friday.

Senior community members were further supported through by the **weekly shopping bus** and the **internet shopping service**.

Events were organised in support of **Seniors' Week**, **International Day of People with a Disability**, and the 10th anniversary of the **Manly Access Committee**.

Community Safety Initiatives

Council's Community Safety Committee oversaw a range of high priority initiatives under Council's Crime Prevention Plan, which included the 2.00am restricted access to licensed premises policy, through the local licensees **Liquor Accord**.

The **Summer Bus** project which assisted late night patrons with transport home complemented this initiative.

Manly Beach Theatre presented performances on the beach during the summer season aimed to reduce the incidence of stealing by alerting beach patrons to the risks of leaving personal valuables unattended.

Manly Art Gallery & Museum

Manly Art Gallery & Museum offered a dynamic programme of exhibitions, talks, workshops and events, including the **Manly Arts Festival**. The Gallery is responsible for the care of the collection and new acquisitions.

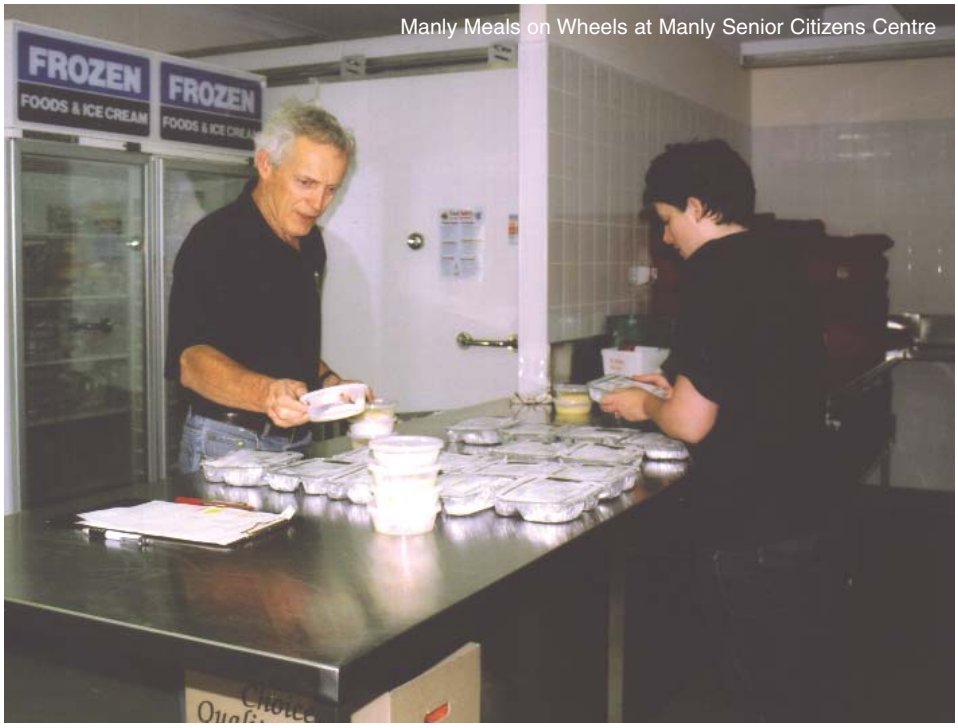
The Gallery hosted 60,000 visitors, including 5,850 students who visited 18 exhibitions and 58 events including workshops and lectures.

A bequest of $723,000 was received from local artist Theo Batten. The interest from this bequest, will be used for a **$5,000 Annual Youth Art Award**.

The Manly Andrew 'Boy' Charlton Swim Centre

Attendance at the Manly Swim centre topped **253,161 patrons** for the year. Water saving devices were fitted at the swim centre change rooms and a large new shade structure erected.

The key user groups at the pool enjoyed a range of activities including learn to swim for all ages, squad swimming, water polo and flipper ball.



Manly Meals on Wheels at Manly Senior Citizens Centre

Community Services *continued*

The pool hosted 48 swimming carnivals for schools from the local area and across Sydney.

Manly Library

Manly Library's **29,388 members borrowed 377,897 items**. Services to Library patrons were improved with increases to library hours, the number of items that can be borrowed and an improved photocopying and printing system. Over 5,000 children attended storytelling and participated in craft sessions, the Halloween Street Party, magic, puppet and animal shows.

Manly Library provided an exciting programme of author talks, library tours, displays, youth art exhibitions and Heritage Week & Manly Arts Festival events.

Innovations in service delivery included the monthly book club and the **Literary Feast** partnership with the Manly Art Gallery and Angus and Robertson.

Approximately 1500 photographs of Manly during the 1920s and 1930s taken by local photographer Leon Cayley, were acquired for the Local Studies Collection.

Events & Visitor Services

Manly Visitor Information Centre assisted over 800 visitors per day through the provision of interpretative literature and tourist information.

The **Manly Destination** brochure, **What to See and Do in Manly** brochure and Manly map were redesigned and a Manly Tourism logo developed.

The **Manly Tourism Website** (www.manlytourism.com) had an average of 5,000 hits per month.

Council took 240 bookings for events in parks and reserves.

Other venues were booked for use 314 times.

Filming approvals trebled, with 92 applications approved.

Council's Financial Management

With Council's financial indicators above accepted local government benchmarks, Council enters the new year in a strong financial position, with adequate reserves set aside for funding of major infrastructure projects.

Council rates for the year increased by 3.6 per cent, in line with that recommended by the Minister for Local Government to cover inflation.

Despite being subject to external pressures and cost increases beyond its control, Council finished the year with an operating budget surplus.

This result has been achieved through prudent financial management and from cost savings in a number of areas.

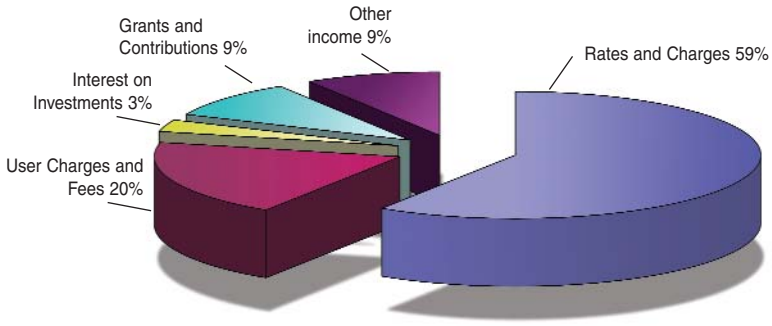
In the 2003/2004 financial year, Council received $38.171 million in operating income; $37.151 million was spent on operating expenditure.

Council spent $5.854 million on capital works.

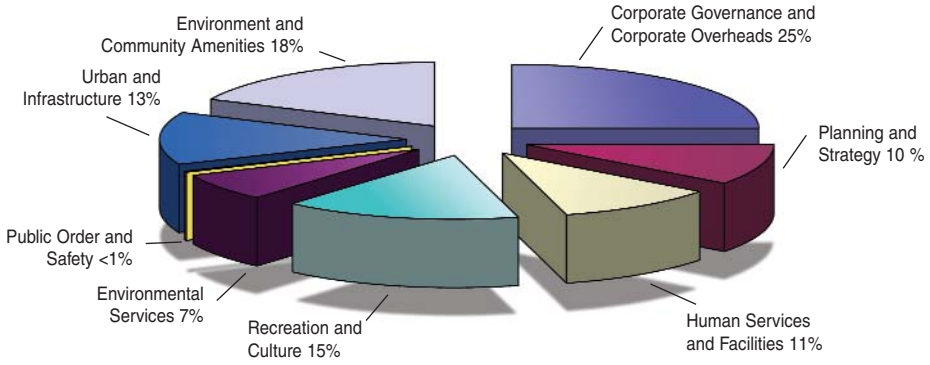
Servicing of loan repayments accounted for $909,000 in principal & interest.

Revenue & Expenditure

Revenue Sources



Expenditure




North Head

Leadership

Your elected Community Leaders



Clr. Barbara Aird



Clr. Simon Cant



Clr. Pat Daley



Clr. Jo Evans



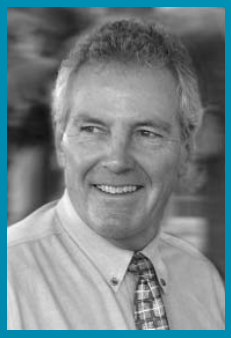
Clr. Jean Hay AM



Clr. Adele Heasman



Clr. Dr Judy Lambert



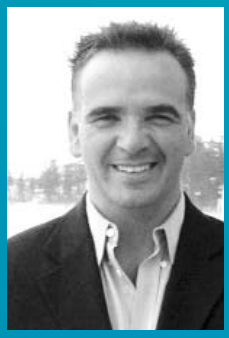
Clr. Dr Peter Macdonald (Mayor)



Clr. Richard Morrison (Deputy Mayor)



Clr. David Murphy



Clr. Mark Norek



Clr. Brad Pedersen

Role of Councillors

Manly Council has 12 elected Councillors, including the Mayor, serving four year terms.

The role of a Councillor is to represent the interests of the residents and ratepayers, to provide leadership and guidance to the community and to facilitate communication between the Community and the Council.

A Councillor is a member of the governing body of the Council, responsible to direct and control the affairs of the Council in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*. They participate in the allocation of Council's resources for the benefit of the area, play a key role in the creation and review of the Council's policies, objectives and criteria relating to the exercise of Council's regulatory functions. The review of the performance of the Council and the delivery of its services, Management Plans and Revenue Policies are all part of the work performed by an elected person.

Mayor & Councillors Office

The **Mayor and Councillors Office** is located at Level 2 of Manly Library, Market Lane, Manly.

The telephone number for the Office Manager is 9976 1473.

The Mayor has open office on Friday morning between 9.00am and 11.00am. You are welcome to visit during these hours without making an appointment.

Councillor Committee Membership

- **Clr. Dr Peter Macdonald**
  (Mayor - *ex-officio* Chair of all Manly Council Committees)
  - Manly Visitor & Community Board
  - Manly Council & Sydney Water Partnership Committee
  - Manly Lagoon Joint Estuary / Floodplain Management Committee
  - Environmental Levy Expenditure Review Committee
  - Landscape Management & Urban Design Committee
  - Manly Art Gallery & Museum Liaison Committee
  - Manly Coastline Management Committee
  - Balgowlah / Seaforth Library Committee
  - Premsure Board *
  - Manly Council & Sydney Water Patnership Committee *
  - Manly Lagoon Joint Estuary/Floodplain Management Committee *
  - The Sydney Coastal Councils Committee *
  - SHOROC - Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils *
- **Clr. Barbara Aird**
  - Waste Management Committee (Chair)
  - Manly Visitor & Community Board
  - Landscape Management & Urban Design Committee
  - Waste Management Committee
  - Manly Community Safety Committee
  - Manly Access Committee
  - Performance and Audit Committee

Leadership

- Manly Scientific Advisory Panel
- Manly Sustainability Strategy Management Group
- Manly Warringah Pittwater Local Emergency Management Committee *
- Warringah, Manly, Mosman and Pittwater Joint Services Committee *
- The Sydney Coastal Councils Committee *

- **Clr. Simon Cant**
  - Community Development Support Expenditure
  - Performance and Audit Committee
  - Manly Social Plan Implementation Committee
  - Manly Community Safety Committee
  - Playground Management Committee
- **Clr. Pat Daley**
  - Manly Community Safety Committee
  - Homelessness Working Party
  - Sports Facilities Committee
  - Manly Scenic Walkway Committee
  - Manly Warringah Pittwater Local Emergency Management Committee *
- **Clr. Jo Evans**
  - Landscape Management & Urban Design Committee
  - Manly Visitor & Community Board
  - Manly Art Gallery & Museum Liaison Committee
  - Manly Community Safety Committee
  - Manly Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Committee
  - Performance & Audit Committee
  - Shorelink Committee (Lower North Shore Library Computer Network) *
- **Clr. Jean Hay AM**
  - Manly Scenic Walkway Committee (Chair)
  - Sports Facilities Committee (Chair)
  - Manly Arts Festival Committee (Chair)
  - Playground Management Committee
  - Manly Coastline Management Committee
  - Manly Pathway of Olympians Committee
  - Manly Visitor & Community Board
  - Manly Art Gallery & Museum Liaison Committee
  - Manly Sister Cities Committee
- **Clr. Adele Heasman**
  - Manly Traffic Committee (Chair) *
  - Manly Meals on Wheels Service Committee
  - Manly Art Gallery & Museum Liaison Committee
  - Manly Access Committee
  - Manly Heritage Committee
  - Shorelink Committee (Lower North Shore Library Computer Network) *
- **Clr. Dr Judy Lambert**
  - Manly Scientific Advisory Panel (Chair)
  - Manly Sustainability Strategy Management Group (Chair)
  - Manly Social Plan Implementation Committee (Chair)
  - Manly Visitor & Community Board
  - Landscape Management and Urban Design Committee
  - Waste Management Committee
  - Bicycle Committee
  - Manly Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Committee
  - Manly Coastline Management Committee
  - Manly Lagoon Joint Estuary/Floodplain Management Committee *
- **Clr. Richard Morrison** (Deputy Mayor)
  - Local Companion Animal Management Committee
  - Performance and Audit Committee
- **Clr. David Murphy**
  - Landscape Management and Urban Design Committee
  - Manly Heritage Committee
  - Playground Management Committee
  - Manly Traffic Committee *
- **Clr. Mark Norek**
  - Manly Scientific Advisory Panel
  - Manly Visitor & Community Board
  - Manly Community Environment Committee
  - Performance & Audit Committee
  - Landscape Management & Urban Design Committee
  - Manly Community Safety Committee
  - Sports Facilities Committee
- **Clr. Brad Pedersen**
  - Manly Community Environment Committee (Chair)
  - Bicycle Committee (Chair)
  - Public Art Committee (Chair)
  - Homelessness Working Party
  - Performance & Audit Committee.

* Committee is external



News Highlights 2003/2004

CD-ROM makes DAs easy!

For a first-time home builder or home renovator, navigating the complex processes of obtaining Council consent for Development Applications and Construction Certificates used to be a nightmare. Until now, that is!

Manly Council has produced a user-friendly, browser-based, PC-compatible CD-ROM that takes most of the confusion and mystery out of submitting a Development Application and obtaining Council approvals.

The fully-searchable CD-ROM, launched in July 2003, carries all the necessary forms and documentation needed to submit a DA, including 'Acrobat' PDF-format copies of relevant Local Environment Plans, Council policies and codes, Development Control Plans and other documents along with a handy, detailed check list and step-by-step guidelines to assist the applicant.

Active transport project

In June 2004, Manly Council launched a project that aims to save the environment and boost the physical fitness of Manly residents and the estimated 5- to 8-million visitors drawn annually to the spectacular scenery, beaches and entertainment venues of this world famous resort destination.

Council's new 'Active Transport Pack' project encourages Manly residents and visitors to reduce use of private vehicles, and utilise public or 'active' transport instead. The 'Active Transport' initiative is about leaving the car at home and using alternative means of transport - including walking.

88 new bus shelters

Manly Council began rolling out 88 brand new bus shelters that not only feature the latest, most robust design and construction (complete with solar powered lighting), but which earn enough revenue from side-panel advertising to fund Council's new footpath building and neighbourhood shopping centre beautification programmes. Construction of the bus shelters involved no capital outlay by Manly Council, whatsoever.

Of the 88 new bus shelters supplied under the scheme, 72 were complete at the time of writing.

Fifty per cent will be in residential streets and have no advertising.

$240,000 grant to aid Manly Lagoon

Manly Council welcomed a grant of $240,000 under the New South Wales Government's Estuary Management Programme for much needed rehabilitation works to remove environmentally damaging sediment at Manly Lagoon.

Sediment contamination of the Lagoon is a concern because of the potential toxicity to aquatic organisms and bio-accumulation in the food chain; and because nutrients released from sediments are believed to be causing de-oxygenation of water, further damaging the Lagoon environment.

The total cost for the removal of the sediment will be $480,000, with Warringah and Manly Councils supplementing the grant funds on a 1:1 basis, each contributing $120,000.

Manly's share will be funded from Council's Environment Levy Funds.

$60,000 Coastal Management grant

Manly Council obtained a $60,000 grant under the State Government's Coastal Management Programme to contribute towards the funding of the 'Manly Ocean Beach Coastline Management Study & Coastline Management Plan'. The Plan aims to provide the best possible management of Manly Beach in the short, medium and long term through the examination of coastal processes and their current and potential future impact on adjacent infrastructure including the sea wall.

2003 Guringai Festival

Northern Sydney Metropolitan region's premier celebration of Australia's Aboriginal culture and heritage, came alive from May 26 to July 14. The focus of this year's festival was affirming Aboriginal culture and heritage through forums, short film festivals, story-telling for children, art workshops, music concerts and much more.

Childcare Centre rated high quality

Manly Council's Roundhouse Childcare Centre at Fairlight was accorded high ratings in all 10 quality areas assessed by the National Childcare Accreditation Council's Quality Improvement and Accreditation System (QIAS).

The QIAS defines quality care in long day care centres, providing a measure of quality and identifying areas for on-going improvement by a collaborative process involving centre staff and management working together with parents.

The Roundhouse Childcare Centre has participated in the national Quality Improvement and Accreditation System for the nine years since its introduction in January 1994.



The Active Transport Project launch

News Highlights 2003/2004

Theo Batten Youth Art Award

The inaugural Theo Batten Youth Art Award of $5,000 was presented to artist Elizabeth Knox, formerly of Mackellar Girls High School, at the launch of Manly Art Gallery & Museum's tenth annual 'Express Yourself' HSC art exhibition in March 2004.

Theo Batten, a long-term member of the Manly Art Gallery & Museum Society and a former member of the Peninsula Art Society, was also a Walkley Award winning illustrator and artist who bequeathed the bulk of his estate to Manly Art Gallery & Museum in support a youth art award.

Manly Village Community Garden

In December, the thriving Manly Village Community Garden at Manly Village Public School (on the corner of Wentworth Street and Victoria Parade) began.

In the short time it has been going, the Manly Village Community Garden has attracted a core group of supporters (including Manly Environment Centre staff, school children, parents, a 'sustainability youth crew', and other people from the community). The Garden is soon to feature in an episode of the popular environment education television programme 'Totally Wild'.



Manly Village Community Garden

A message from Manly Council's General Manager

Communities expect a lot from their Local Councils and so they should. Local Government is largely responsible for providing the services and infrastructure that support a good quality of life and protect our local environment. However, local government is not merely about the provision of 'kerbs and gutters' and 'picking up the garbage', as vital as are those services to the community.

Local government is about people.

It is about the fostering of local community interest; building a community which has identity and a sense of belonging; plus developing, protecting and providing for the community as a whole.

Our working culture continues along its path of being a customer focused and responsible organisation which is nonetheless businesslike in its activities and more responsive and effective throughout.

To that end, Manly Council's very remarkable system of Precinct Community Forums provides a unique mechanism to foster 'two way communication' between Council's staff and elected officials, on the one hand, and the community they serve. For me personally the Precinct Forums have provided a great means for meeting the people who make up our community, and hearing directly from them their concerns, hopes and aspirations for Manly.

Our dedicated management team and staff are the keys to meeting those community expectations, and I have put special emphasis on smoothing lines of communication and increasing efficiencies within the organisation by thoroughly reviewing, and where necessary, thoroughly revising Council's organisational structure.

In many instances this has involved empowering both staff and the broader community by the introduction of new and much improved systems of information technology.

Some of this improvement is apparent from the range of excellent on-line services Council provides through its web site - services undreamt of in Manly even a few years ago.

Less obvious, though, are the enormous gains in productivity and efficiency Council has achieved 'behind the scenes' through state-of-the-art electronic document management and customer request processing systems, enhanced human resource management practices, modern organisational reforms and many other initiatives.

The results, however, are apparent in virtually every area of Council activity covered by this report - from improved domestic waste recycling diversion rates, to improved water quality in local waterways; from better outcomes in our children's services areas, to improved resources for older persons; from faster turnaround on customer action requests, to improved safety on our streets and beaches; from cleaner streets and reserves, to the sparkling world-class community events held on those streets and reserves.

Good corporate and community governance have been clearly evident throughout our organisation.

The great majority of outcomes required from Council's Management and Corporate Plan for the year, were successfully achieved. Others are underway. Council's financial position is sound - and set to improve.

I thank the Mayor and Councillors for their hard work and endeavours throughout the last year.

I also thank the management and all staff throughout Council for their commitment, loyalty and many achievements.



Henry T Wong
General Manager

Community Involvement

Council Meetings

Council's Ordinary and Principal Committee meetings were held on a four weekly cycle on a Monday evening commencing at 7.30pm. All meetings were held in the Council Chambers, which is located on the first floor of 1 Belgrave Street, Manly.

- Week 1
  Land Use Management Committee Meeting (LUM)
- Week 2
  Planning & Strategy Committee Meeting (PSC)
- Week 3
  Ordinary Meeting (OM)
- Week 4
  Generally free

Meetings are subject to change. Where a Public Holiday falls on a Monday, meetings will be held on the Tuesday evening or the following Monday.

Agendas and Minutes may be accessed via Council's website and are available at Manly Library on the Friday prior to the meetings.

Precinct Community Forums

Council's 12 Precinct Community Forums are groups of people who live, work or own property in a Precinct area.

They meet on a monthly basis to discuss matters which Council has referred for community consultation, matters of local importance and interest to the community.

The recommendations of Precinct Community Forums are advisory. Comments received by Council in the monthly minutes, are responded to and considered by Council in its statutory decision making role.

Having Your Say - Public Forum at a Council Meeting

Any member of the public can address Council at the **Ordinary Meeting** for up to three minutes in the Public Forum. The Public Forum is held at the commencement of the meeting. Any subject can be discussed, as long as it is not already on the Council agenda. No prior notice is required.



Manly Corso

Address Councillors - Agenda Item

If you wish to address Council or the Committees on a particular item which has been listed on the Agenda for consideration at the meeting, a Public Address form must be completed and submitted to the General Manager of Council by 12 noon on the day of the meeting. A copy of the form is available from Council's website. You are able to speak for up to three minutes and may be asked questions by Councillors on the item.

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