



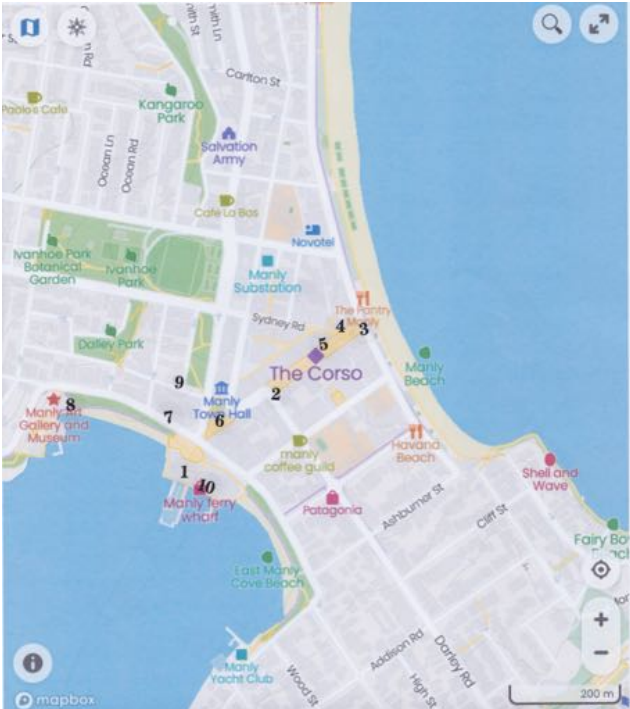
CWA Manly Branch was established 1923

## MANLY WALKING TOUR WITH CWA

3 MAY 2022



# MAP OF MANLY CBD



## MANLY WALKING TOUR WITH THE CWA

*We acknowledge the Gayemagal People and in particular the Kai-ey-may of Manly Cove, as the traditional custodians of the land on which stand today. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.*

Aboriginal people cared for the land for thousands of years before the arrival of those eleven sailing ships in January 1788. Women in canoes fishing in the harbour for jewfish, snapper, mullet and leatherjacket, with shell hooks and lines made from tree bark, must have wondered about those alien vessels with huge white wings, and the pale-skinned creatures who moved them across the water. The people on shore gathering shellfish, turtle eggs, eels, crayfish and yabbies must also have been bemused at the arrival of those strange beings so unlike themselves.

As the ships sailed into the harbour the commander noticed several sandy bays to the right of the entrance just inside a craggy headland. He saw people gathered on the shore and was impressed by their stately bearing. He named the place 'Manly' in their honour.

The sand spit between ocean and harbour that became Manly was a paradise, not only for human beings but also for wallabies and other animals, and birds such as whipbirds and parrots. The extensive wetlands were home and breeding ground to migratory species as well as black swans and herons. On the escarpment west of the sand spit, rock cavities offered shade from the hot sun and shelter from prevailing winds. Creeks tumbling down hillsides provided a constant supply of fresh drinking water.

## POINTS OF INTEREST

### 1. MANLY WHARF, INCLUDING ARTHUR PHILLIP STATUE BY RAYNER HOFF & CAIRN



...

In 1856 Englishman Henry Gilbert Smith began a twice-weekly ferry service between Manly and Circular Quay. This became popular and was soon operating twice daily.

In 1834 a ferry ran across The Spit in Middle Harbour to Manly and the suburbs of the Northern Beaches. In 1850 a punt began operating at The Spit but ceased working when Manly Municipal Council erected a timber bridge over Middle Harbour, which was opened by the state premier in December 1924.

Arthur Phillip Statue: This statue of the first Governor of New South Wales, Captain Arthur Phillip, was sculpted by Rayner Hoff in 1934. It was installed on the Hotel Manly, formerly on this site. When the building was demolished in 1992, the statue was restored to occupy a similar position overlooking Manly Cove.

Arthur Phillips Cairn: These seventeenth-century bricks from Captain Arthur Phillip's home at *Vernal's Farm*, Lyndhurst, Hampshire, were presented to the Manly, Warringah & Pittwater Historical Society in 1989.

Henry Gilbert Smith had a vision for Manly as a seaside resort, similar to Brighton in England. In 1855 he gave the name The Corso (after a prominent street in Rome) to the sandy track between Ocean Beach and Manly Cove. In its early days it was only a series of wooden boardwalks, and under water at high tide.

## 2. SOUTH SIDE OF THE CORSO, INCLUDING THE ANZAC MEMORIAL AND ST MATTHEWS CHURCH

Manly War Memorial: Consisting of a globe of the world on top of a tall column of polished granite, and base of trachyte the Manly War Memorial installed in 1916, was one of the earliest Anzac memorials in Sydney. It was donated by the family of Alan David Mitchell, among the first Manly soldiers to fall in WW I. The inset bronze medallions symbolise phases of the Great War; the stylised dolphins represent Manly's seaside location. The capital features Waratahs and Christmas Bells which grew in abundance in the Manly area in the early days.



St Matthews Anglican Church: Smith made available land for a small wooden church in the late 1850s on the current St Matthews site. This was demolished in the 1860s to make way for a neo-gothic sandstone church designed by colonial architect Edmund Blacket. In the 1920s Manly Council wanted to widen The Corso for the increasing motor traffic. Blacket's church was demolished and the current, mostly brick building constructed. The stained-glass windows and WW I Honour Rolls were incorporated into the new church and the original rectory built in 1887 still stands in Darley Road.

Above the shop awnings façades feature circular windows and elaborate decorations including garlands and ribbons, in the Art Nouveau style, popular from the 1890s to around 1914.

### 3. OCEAN BEACH & CABBAGE TREE BAY

The stainless-steel sculpture *Wind and Wave* at the end of The Corso, is by Melbourne sculptor, Lenton Parr (1924-2003). It was funded by the State government as part of a Bicentennial grant to Manly in 1988, to evoke the essence of Manly's Ocean Beach.

In 1891 Manly Council assumed control of the parks in the district and began an extensive beautification which included planting sixty young Norfolk Island pines. The State Forestry Department and the Botanic Gardens sent dozens more. By 1936 there were around 376 Norfolk Island Pines along the South and North Steyne promenades, giving Manly's Ocean Beach its distinctive character.

W H Gocher, proprietor of the *Manly and North Sydney News* challenged the laws prohibiting public surf bathing on beaches during daytime hours. He announced that he would enter the surf on Manly's Ocean Beach at noon on 2 October 1902. The police took no action; nor on a second occasion. During the next eleven months Gocher continued his public campaign until the council rescinded the by-law prohibiting bathing after 7 am and allowed all-day bathing provided that everyone over the age of eight be clad in a neck to knee costume. The Sly brothers who owned the first surfboat on Ocean Beach, introduced rescue drill with life belt and line and saved many lives, especially after they insisted that bathers enter the surf at one locality instead of anywhere along the beach.



*Percy Spence (1868-1933), Manly Beach with Lady Lifesavers, 1910, watercolour on paper, 18 x 27cm. Purchased 1975. (A0402)*

The carved *Shell & Wave Sculpture* was created in 1988 as a Bicentenary Project. The sculpture is a tribute to lifesavers from the three Manly beaches who had carried out more than 41,000 rescues up to 1988.

*Oceanides* (1997), a pair of sculptures installed on the seawall of the ocean pool at Half Way Beach, was created by Helen Leete, to represent bathers enjoying the sun and sea. The sculpture was destroyed in a storm in June 2016. Crowdfunding raised the money for restoration and it was reinstated in 2017.



Cabbage Tree Bay Eco-Sculpture Walk: Metal-alloy marine fauna attached to the rock walls, have been designed to raise visitor awareness of this bay's special attractions, including protected marine species such as the blue groper.



#### 4. THE STEYNE HOTEL – HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURE



In 1859 the original Steyne Hotel (once again Henry Gilbert Smith was involved – he wasn't called 'the father of Manly' for nothing!) was built right on the beachfront at Manly. There was no sea wall and shortly after the Hotel Steyne opened a huge swell swept around Fairy Bower point, washed across the sand, and swept the drinkers out into the Corso. Yet it continued to be the most popular watering hole in Manly. In 1863, a mysterious fire destroyed The Steyne – thought to have been caused by a jealous competitor publican. Henry Smith commissioned Edmund Blackett to design another hotel, which opened on the same site in January 1864. An equally mysterious second fire struck in 1923. Another pub was built in the same place with the same name – the building you see standing today.

The Round Bar and the retro sporting advertisements on the façade.

#### 5. NORTH SIDE OF THE CORSO, INCLUDING THE NEW BRIGHTON AND IVANHOE HOTELS.

The New Brighton Hotel had its origins in 1879 but the present hotel was completed in 1926 in the 'Egyptian' style architecture that was popular at the time due to the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922. The new hotel was advertised as having ocean views and in close proximity to the golf course, swimming baths and beach.



## 6. MANLY TOWN HALL

The first Manly Council met in February 1877 in temporary premises including the original Ivanhoe Hotel in Ivanhoe Park. (In 1877 the council also planted the Moreton Bay fig trees in Gilbert Park.) The Council then purchased a grand mansion on the current town hall's site. It was demolished and the new Manly Town Hall, designed in the Neo-Georgian revival style with Egyptian Revival columns was opened in 1937.

Opposite the Council Chambers in Belgrave Street, is Gilbert Park (named after... you guessed it!). On the northern side of Sydney Road, the Ivanhoe Park precinct consists of tennis courts, rugby/cricket/athletics oval (a veritable Village Green), lawn bowling rinks, and the Ivanhoe Memorial Botanic Gardens. During the 1880s and 1890s, the Manly Wildflower Shows were held in Ivanhoe Park, raising money for local charities, but at the cost of great damage to native flora. Among the exhibits at the annual shows were waratahs, native roses, rock lilies, Christmas bells and flannel flowers, plus tree-ferns and staghorns. Over the years wildflowers disappeared from the bushlands. It took people a long time to value native plants and try to save them from total extinction.

In summertime, Christmas bush trees displayed masses of small red flowers. During the festive season in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, men with carts cut huge bunches to sell to shopkeepers and churches for decoration. Soon there were no native Christmas bush trees left.



## 7. HISTORICAL CAIRN & THE PATHWAY OF OLYMPIANS

First Landing Cairn. A plaque installed in 1928 by the Manly Warringah and Pittwater Historical Society commemorates the landing at Manly of Captain Arthur Phillip RN 1st Governor of NSW, 21st January 1788'. A plaque was later placed on the memorial as further research indicated that Captain Phillip was in the area on the 21 January 1788 but did not go ashore.

In 2006 the Society also marked Phillip's second visit to Manly in 1790, when he was speared in the shoulder.

Pathway of Olympians. Although Manly is perhaps best-known – Australia-wide and internationally – for its lifesaving and surfing feats, Manly has been well represented at both winter and summer Olympic games in a variety of sports.

## 8. MANLY ART GALLERY & MUSEUM (MAG&M)

MAG&M's first-class permanent collection contains over 6,000 objects in a range of media including paintings, works on paper, ceramics and museum objects, documents and photographs and reflect the artistic and regional heritage of Australian life, with an emphasis on harbour and beach culture.

The Museum's building, formerly a grand concert pavilion costing £1,000 to construct, opened on 15 November 1922. In 1924 Manly Council decided to convert the building to an art gallery. Twelve committee members were appointed to bring the idea to fruition, including: J R Trennery editor of *The Manly Daily*, artists, Charles Bryant and Antonio Dattilo Rubbo, and historian Percy Gledhill.

The pavilion shell backed onto the raw sandstone cliff face near the stormwater outflow. A swamp mahogany tree found growing on this site indicated how wet this foreshore was. It was feared that water damage from storms, the natural stream and storm water outflow would cause problems. Nevertheless in 1930 the archway was closed, and the Gallery opened with a display of paintings and historical material, as the 'Manly Art Gallery and Historical Collection', on its present site in West Esplanade Reserve.

The current exhibition, *Being Manly*, by Billy Bain, seeks to unsettle colonial narratives of masculinity by playfully deconstructing popular cultural icons such as the surfer, the lifeguard and the footballer in quirky squat terracotta forms. Using Indigenous figures, Billy Bain shifts our perception of Manly's cultural identity away from being a strictly white construct to imply the continued presence of the traditional custodians of the land. As an Indigenous man, Bain reclaims self-agency in how he identifies with the Manly area where he was born and raised by, poking fun at perceptions of who he is meant to be.



The Bathers' Pavilion was constructed in 1933. There used to be a very popular boardwalk from the Ferry Wharf to the Pavilion but it was destroyed in a huge storm in 1974. The harbour might look calm but when gale-force winds blow fiercely from the south and south-east, it becomes a demon. Only recently, several yachts and launches were washed onto the harbour beaches and destroyed.

The Aquarium closed a few years ago and its occupants were transferred to the aquarium in Darling Harbour.

There has been, and continues to be, much local debate as to what to do with the site – as there is with the old Manly Hospital site and Manly Council Chambers (post amalgamation with Warringah and Pittwater Councils). Manly's community has a strong civic sense and speaks up when the integrity of the village and its surrounds is threatened.

## 9. THE MANLY CLUB

The Manly Civic Club opened in the late 1940s as a somewhat exclusive businessmen's club. In the ensuing decades, the Club transitioned into a more diverse membership, appealing to a wider demographic.

For over a century there has been the unusually named 'Auckland Garage' on the corner of the Civic Club site. It closed decades ago, but because of its heritage value, proposed developments failed to gain approval and the Civic Club site remained a desolate concrete wasteland for many years. The current development, incorporating the garage into the ground-floor café of the Manly Club has been a great success.

## 10. RETURN TO MANLY FERRY WHARF

### SOURCES:

- Northern Beaches History Hub: <https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/library/news>
- Swancott, Charles, *Manly. 1788 to 1968*, D S Ford Printers, Sydney, nd