

Be Penguin Aware



Little Penguins - Big Future

General Information

1. The Little Penguin colony at Manly is the last remaining mainland colony in New South Wales!
2. A recent survey conducted by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service during the 2000/01 breeding season estimates the population at a minimum of 74 breeding pairs of Little Penguins.
3. The Little Penguin is a seabird. Little Penguins can't fly.
4. Their scientific name is *Eudyptula minor* and true to their nature, translates as 'good little diver'. Their Aboriginal name is *carangarang binyang*.
5. Little Penguins are the smallest penguins in the world! They are only 30-40cm tall!
6. Manly's Little Penguins are dependent on both land and sea for survival. Most of their life is spent at sea. Little Penguins spend weeks fishing in the Harbour and along the coast and can even sleep at sea! They return to Manly to breed, raise chicks and moult.

Project Information

1. Manly Council is coordinating the 'Little Penguin Aware' Community Education and Awareness Project which aims to educate the community about how to minimise their impacts on Manly's Little Penguins and their habitat.
2. The project is funded by a Coastcare grant and funds from Manly Council's Environmental Levy.
3. The Little Penguin population at Manly was listed as endangered on Part 2 of Schedule 1 of the New South Wales Threatened Species Conservation Act (TSC Act) 1995 on 31 January 1997.
4. The Little Penguin Recovery Team was convened in February 1998 to oversee the initial investigations and guide NPWS in the

preparation of the recovery plan for the Little Penguin population. The Recovery Team includes representatives from NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Manly Council, Manly Environment Centre, Taronga Zoo, Charles Sturt University, Southern Oceans Seabird Study Association, NSW Fisheries, Waterways Authority and the Environment Protection Authority.

5. As required by the TSC Act the Little Penguin Recovery Team prepared a Recovery Plan for the population - the Endangered Population of Little Penguins *Eudyptula minor* at Manly Recovery Plan.
6. This project is one of Manly Council's initiatives to implement the Recovery Plan.



Threats to Manly's Little Penguins:

Introduced predators

Dogs

Threat:

- Little Penguins at Manly have been attacked and killed by uncontrolled dogs on the foreshore while returning home or in their burrows. This leaves their chicks unprotected and unfed.
- Penguins have been killed at Manly by dogs coming ashore from moored boats.

You can help:

- Do not walk your dog in a National Park. Dogs are prohibited from all National Parks in NSW.
- Be aware of Council's 'dog-free' areas and Wildlife Protection Areas. Contact Manly Council for a copy of the brochure 'Your Dog and the Law' which lists dog regulations and to find out the location of off-leash exercise areas.
- Register your dog. All dogs over 6 months old must be registered. Contact Manly Council for a copy of the brochure 'Chip-In-Your Rights and Responsibilities under the Companion Animals Act 1998'.
- De-sex your dog. This helps reduce the number of stray dogs.
- Train your dog not to bark, to reduce noise near the foreshore.
- Keep your dog on your boat. Don't let it swim near or access the foreshore.

Cats & Foxes

Threat:

- Cats and foxes disturb Little Penguins and their chicks in their nests.

You can help:

- Keep your cat inside - day & night.
- Ensure your cat is registered and has a collar with address tag and two bells.
- Desex your cat. This helps prevent unwanted kittens and reduces the number of strays.
- Feed your pet indoors. Food left outside provides food for foxes and stray cats.



Habitat Loss

On land

Threat:

- Removal of vegetation near the foreshore can deprive Little Penguins of nesting habitat.

You can help:

- Contact NPWS or Council for advice before tidying or removing any vegetation near the foreshore, including weeds.
- Only remove vegetation from within your property boundary.
- Replace any weeds removed with native species. Contact Council for a list of species.

Threat:

- Noise and light on the foreshore or on the water can make nearby burrow habitat unsuitable for penguins to live in, or delay them from returning to their burrow.

You can help:

- Reduce the amount of noise and light which reaches the foreshore and water from your property, especially at night when penguins are returning to their nests and during the breeding season (July through March).

Threat:

- Renovation of homes near the foreshore can block access to nests or bury them completely.

You can help:

- Adhere to development consent. An 8 Part Test must be carried out in accordance with Section 5A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act if the site is a known potential habitat for Little Penguins.

In the water

Threat:

- Noise and light from human activity on the water may scare Little Penguins away from feeding habitat.
- Mooring close to shore damages seagrass beds, which may be habitat for penguin food.

You can help:

- Moor at least 50 metres away from the shore.
- Use fixed moorings where possible and avoid anchoring on seagrass beds.
- Minimise the amount of noise and light from your boat. Proceed with care throughout the Harbour, where Little Penguins forage.



Human Disturbance

On land

Threat:

- Our presence on the foreshore at Manly can prevent or delay Little Penguins return home, or may cause them to abandon their nest.
- Stress from contact with humans can make Little Penguins very sick and can even result in death.

You can help:

- Be aware of penguins near foreshore areas at night, especially during the breeding season (July through March).
- If you see a Little Penguin, stay at least 50 metres away.
- Do not shine a torch on or near a Little Penguin.
- Do not disturb burrows by walking on or near them.

Threat:

- Little Penguins are sometimes killed by cars on roads near the foreshore.

You can help:

- Drive slowly at dawn and dusk around foreshores.
- If parked near the foreshore, check under your car for penguins before you drive away.

In the water

Threat:

- Direct interference with Little Penguins in the water can cause Little Penguins to die or abandon their nest.

You can help:

- All powered watercraft need to be aware of marine regulations, such as the 100 metre wide 4 knot speed limit around foreshore.
- Minimise the amount of noise and light from your boat.
- Report any irresponsible behaviour to the Boating Access Line, Waterways Authority on 9563 8555.
- Be aware that jet skis are now banned in Sydney Harbour.

Pollution

Threat:

- Rubbish tangles, suffocates and injures Little Penguins.

You can help:

- Participate in local clean-up on the foreshore.
- 'Stow it, don't throw it' - don't dump rubbish overboard from your boat.
- Bring your own bag or ask for a box when shopping, don't use plastic bags.

Threat:

- Oil and chemicals make Little Penguins sick. Little Penguins continue to preen while 'oiled' and are slowly poisoned from swallowing the oil while trying to get clean.

You can help:

- Don't put oil or chemicals down the drain.
- Tune your car or boat so that it doesn't leak oil.
- Use a non-polluting defoulant to clean your boat.
- Clean your boat in the slips, not in the water.

Fishing

Threat:

- Line and hooks on the foreshore or in the water can strangle Little Penguins or injure their flippers or feet.

You can help:

- Clean up fishing line, hooks and sinkers on the foreshore.
- If you do find an injured penguin, call the appropriate number on the Penguin Aware Response Directory.



'penguin Aware' Response Directory

TO REPORT AN UNCONTROLLED DOG OR CAT:

Contact during business hours:

- Manly Council
- Rangers 9976 1633
- Animal Control Officer 0418 629 023

TO REPORT IRRESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR ON THE WATER:

Contact during business hours:

- Waterways Authority's Boating Access Line 9563 8555

TO REPORT AN INJURED, SICK OR DEAD PENGUIN:

Contact during business hours:

- NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service Rangers 9977 6732
- Taronga Zoo Wildlife Clinic 9978 4785
- NSW Wildlife Information & Rescue Service 8977 3333

Contact after hours:

- Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife Services 9413 4300

This project has been funded by Manly Council's Environmental Levy.

This project has been funded by Coastcare - a cooperative Commonwealth / State / Local Government program supporting communities caring for our coast.