

Reflections on Manly Pool

By Marian Hambly



The documentary tells the story of Manly's "Wonder Pool", created by The Port Jackson & Manly Steamship Company in 1931 and destroyed during a massive storm in 1974. It visits all the big issues: public space Vs private ownership, harbour views and survival of our delicate marine environment. And we ask whether the marvellous pool could or should be rebuilt.

The golden years of "The Lido of the South" are recreated using gorgeous old newsreel footage and interviews with key locals. We watch Super 8 footage of the storm and aftermath. We meet Angelika, trying to save the penguins, and Dave, wanting to recreate the magnificent 9-acre pool and the boardwalk as a protective framework for a new world-class pristine aquatic nursery and playground.

This 17-minute documentary was made in 2011 as part of the requirements for a post graduate degree at AFTRS, the Australian Film, Radio and Television school. I wrote, directed and produced the film, and young colleagues at the film school all volunteered their skills as crew: cinematographers, editor, sound guy, music composer, colourist, post artists and so on.

The film took a year to make and had a sensational debut when 300 people had to be turned away from the first screening in Manly in 2012. It was selected to be shown at Flickerfest in Bondi and toured the country for 6 months in 2012.

Now it has been placed on the AFTRS website and can be viewed by anyone who loved the pool and wishes to remember. Just click on the link below and it will take you to the website and film.

http://www.aftrs.edu.au/showcase/students-and-films/video/0_4s9jlnx7