

Mayor William Alex Manning



MAN01279 Mayor Manning, 1976

Bill Manning was born to Edward Quilliam Manning and Enid (nee Wolstenholme), (circa 1930/31). The family were listed in the 1930 Electoral Roll living at Five Dock, where his father was a chemist. His parents divorced in 1934.¹ Bill came to live in Manly circa 1940.

William Alexander Manning married Joan Mavis Randall in 1954.² They were listed in the 1958 Electoral Roll living at 25a Stuart Street, Manly.

Alderman Manning came in to Council in 1968 as the candidate of the Citizens and Ratepayers Association, of which he had been President, and became Mayor in 1973 without having previously served as deputy. He served two terms as Mayor. The *Manly Daily* stated in 1975: "He can take credit for the building of the Olympic (Andrew Boy Charlton) Pool now under construction; securing \$240,000 to repair storm damage; obtaining \$216,000 RED money; negotiating a deal with the Education Department as a result of which Manly will have a new library [in Wentworth Street] at a cost of only \$16,000. He won wide approval for his handling of the Eastern Hill 'green ban' controversy and praise for his persistent fight for the Manly ferry services. He is retiring for personal and business reasons."³

From *Manly Daily* 12 December 1974 p2:

¹ *Sydney Morning Herald* 24 April 1934, p6.

² NSW BDM 9566/1954.

³ *Manly Daily* 6 September 1975.

“Mayor Closes Business

Manning Electrical Pty Ltd, founded by the Mayor of Manly, Alderman W A Manning, is going out of business. Alderman Manning said yesterday he would shut down the electrical contracting business next week. Alderman Manning's firm, in Orchard Road, Brookvale, has been operating for 25 years. Two years ago he moved from an 1800 sq ft factory in another part of Orchard Road to his present 3700 sq ft factory.

“The business was expanding,” he said. “About 18 months ago I was employing 23 staff. Since then I have cut down to 10.”

Alderman Manning, the governing director, said the company had been losing money for the last six months. “It has been primarily because of the Federal Government's economic policies,” he said. He had decided shutting the factory was “the responsible decision” for his staff and creditors. “To carry on any further would be a sheer punt,” he said. “I could say, ‘all right, we might be able to get through it in six or more months’, but that would not be responsible. With the way the Federal Government is going there is no surety that my business or any other business would be able to meet its commitments after that time. We could be worse off if we wait any longer.”

He said it would take some months to dismantle and disperse the assets built up over 25 years. Alderman Manning said he was not sure what he would do after the company closed down, but would probably do electrical work.”

See also MD 18 April 1974 for a profile of Bill Manning, and MD 2 October 1976 for a profile of Mrs Joan Manning.