

Neighbours fear historic Sydney mansion will become noisy party venue



By [Andrew Taylor](#)

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The historic Swifts mansion in Darling Point has hosted parties for the cream of Sydney society for more than 100 years, but neighbours fear its wealthy owner plans to turn the property into a noisy party venue.

A company owned by Shane Moran, a member of the Moran aged care empire, wants to hold events at Swifts to subsidise the cost of maintaining the heritage-listed mansion.



The exterior of Swifts mansion in Darling Point. CREDIT: KATE GERAGHTY.

Nearby residents say the plans outlined in two development applications would turn the property into a party venue, with drunk guests vomiting and urinating on surrounding streets.

Moran did not respond to *The Sun-Herald's* questions, but planning documents submitted to Woollahra Municipal Council seek to hold events at

Swifts for 41 days each year, which is “considerably less than the 52 days that could be applied for under [local planning rules]”. However, this restriction does not apply to Moran family events for which a fee is not charged.

Weddings, balls, charity events and corporate functions for up to 300 people would be held at the Darling Point mansion although the primary use of the site will remain residential.



Shane Moran wants to hold events at Swifts mansion in Darling Point to subsidise the cost of maintaining the heritage-listed property. *CREDIT: LOUIE DOUVIS*

Traffic generated by parties would be moderate, planning documents suggest, with guests told to use public transport, taxis or walk as “on-street parking is generally not allowed”.

The plan of management envisages mostly indoor events up to 11pm, while outdoor events would have to end at 10pm, with guests required to leave within an hour.

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A maximum of three events lasting up to three days could also be held each year, according to planning documents. “The number and type of events proposed under this DA are commensurate with the types of events that have traditionally been held at Swifts.”

One of Sydney's most notable historic mansions, Swifts was constructed by the Tooth Family in 1882. The Moran family purchased the property in 1997 with Shane Moran's company Masolage Holdings becoming the property's owner in 2012.



One of Sydney's most notable mansions, Swifts has hosted significant societal events since 1885. *CREDIT: LOUIE DOUVIS*

The DAs note that Swifts has hosted significant societal events in its ballroom, dining room, terraces and extensive gardens since 1885 when the Tooth family held a large ball reportedly attended by the “who's who of Sydney society”.

Past events include an *Underbelly Razor*-themed dinner party in 2011, the Sydney Children's Hospital Silver Party in 2019 and last year's fundraiser for the Friends of Wolper Jewish Hospital featuring former prime minister Malcolm Turnbull.

The DA also notes that nearby McKell Park is hired out for weddings and other private events, while Lindesay House, a harbourside mansion operated by the National Trust, has development consent for events.