

Gateway

Newsletter of the Brooklyn Community Association, Inc

May 2010

Digital TV & Radio Reception - Satellite Solutions

Understanding the planning and roll out in bringing new digital services to our satellite remote area customers - by Wally Shand of Videosat P/L

The Federal Government announcements of funding and assistance in January 2010 and April 2010 now means that we have a timetable and structure to bring these new services to Satellite viewers. This means all Australians will have access to the same programming and quality as the city based digital services available to-day.

In essence

The new service will provide digital TV services to viewers in eastern Australia who cannot receive terrestrial digital TV. The agreement is between the Australian Government and broadcasters Southern Cross Media and Imparja to establish a joint venture company, Viewer Access Satellite Television (VAST). This agreement will ensure access to free-to-air television for viewers in the Remote Central and Eastern Australia licence area. In particular it will also ensure that those in regional and metropolitan areas who are unable to receive their local TV services terrestrially will also be able to access the new service.

This is a significant breakthrough in the provision of digital TV services to all Australians, particularly for those in remote and regional areas who for many years have had to put up with less choice than people in the cities. The new VAST service will for the first time make available to all parts of Australia the same number of channels as are available in the capital cities. This includes programming in standard definition from the Seven, Nine and Ten networks and their new digital channels GO!, 7TWO and ONEHD, as well as all of the ABC and SBS channels, including ABC2, ABC3 and SBS TWO. The VAST service will also provide high definition channels.

The service will be broken into three areas -, the Northern Service (Qld and the NT), the Western Australia service, still under negotiations, and the Southern Service.

The Southern Service will operate in the Southern time Zone providing standard definition services for viewers in NSW, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania based on Sydney time. The high definition services will be provided

in a combined zone, covering both the northern and southern zones.

Viewers of the satellite service will be able to watch their local news services through a dedicated news channel. State-based ABC and SBS news services would also be available on their respective channels.

Self-help sites

Self-help sites are small retransmit sites that have been set up to retransmit satellite services terrestrially in analogue format, many by councils and local community groups.

Those viewers in major sites will be have their sites upgraded to full digital services and will not need satellite equipment. Households currently served by self-help transmitters that are not being upgraded to digital would be able to receive all of the digital TV services from the new satellite service. The Government will provide a subsidy of \$400 to eligible households to convert to the new satellite service..

The availability of the new satellite services are linked to the timetable of analogue switch off with Mildura/Sunraysia region as the first region to switch over to digital-only TV on 30 June 2010. Households in the Mildura/Sunraysia region already using the existing Aurora satellite service will be able to convert to the new service using their existing dish as soon as the new set top boxes are available. All new satellite set-top boxes on delivery will be already configured to receive the ABC and SBS services including the ABC2 and ABC 3 etc and high definition ABC and SBS services. To access the VAST service, viewers will need to purchase a new satellite set top box with an access 'smart card', a satellite dish and cabling.

Existing Aurora customers will only need to purchase a set top box at RRP of \$279.00 inc GST, providing their existing satellite equipment is functioning correctly. Videosat and Campersat have teamed with Altec UEC as the initial supplier of satellite set top boxes with product being available in time for the 30th June 2010 time scale.

**Brooklyn Community Association
General Meeting
May 23rd, Sunday, 10:30am
at Health Centre Meeting Room**

Our guest speaker will be Wally Shand of Videosat in Hornsby to talk about changes in digital TV transmission, reception problems, and possible solutions. All welcome.

Brooklyn Community Association Membership Renewal Due in January 2010

Annual subscription of \$5 per household are due for 2010. Members must be residents or property owners in Brooklyn or a Brooklyn business appointed representative. Payment can be by cheque posted to the Secretary at PO Box 239, Brooklyn 2083, by cash at a BCA meeting or by direct deposit to **BSB 633 000, a/c # 129357182**. Please include your surname and phone number in the payment details.

If you are a new member, the Treasurer can send you an application form by email or dropped one into your letter box. Return the completed application by email or to the address above. For more information contact the Treasurer, Robert Arnold, phone 0418 404 902, email ararnold@iinet.net.au.

TENNIS DATE & TIMES

Sunday May 30th, 3pm
Sunday June 27th, 3pm

Hope you can make it.
Bring some friends.

Email Robert Arnold,
ararnold@iinet.net.au to confirm attendance.



KANGAROO POINT DEVELOPMENT

Hornsby Council is calling for expressions of interest for applicants interested in taking up a land lease of up to 21 years for the development and operation of a restaurant, and/or take-away food facility at Kangaroo Point, Brooklyn. The designated area is approximately 672 square metres.

The proposal for the whole of the 672 square metre site may make reference to any works outside of the land for lease, within the public recreation reserve and needs to demonstrate innovative and creative ideas for the development and operation of the facility, which deliver a sustainable commercial outcome, consistent with the surrounding environment.

Expressions of interest will be considered for short listing and Council intends that five proponents be invited to participate in the selective tender.

BROOKLYN'S MEETING ROOM

The Meeting Room, located in the Health Centre, is now available for public hire through Hornsby Council. New carpeting and air conditioning are planned to be added soon with additional renovations to come as money is available. For information about conditions for hire and rates to book the Meeting Room, phone Gillian Scott at Council, 9847 6504.

Hornsby Council Explores Shared Walking and Bike Path

Brooklyn suffers from a narrow main road and no safe walking path for much of its length. A meeting called recently by Council to canvas public opinion and to introduce the concept of a shared bike and walking path from Kangaroo Point to Parsley Bay was well received by the 25 people attending.

Urban Arc, a consultancy specialising in planning and design of the built environment and recommending facilities for improving the urban fabric will design the path. Funding would be sought by matching grants and special purpose funds. The plan is being developed with extensive community consultation and more information email urbanarc@urbanarc.com.au.

HAWKESBURY RAIL STATION

The recent upgrade of the access stairs to the station has been completed with the steep incline of the previous staircase being reduced somewhat and the inclusion of a handrail in the centre. The station stairs are now compliant with the relevant building standards.

Provisions have been included for eventually construction of a pair of lifts to assist people using the service. However Brooklyn is quite low down on the list and it will be decades before we are scheduled for lifts. Despite our tourist designation Brooklyn does not meet RailCorp criteria for the inclusion of lifts which is a major disappointment for the community's elderly, young mothers and physically impaired.

Brooklyn Business Lunch

The life of the small business owner can be a lonely one, so a few Brooklyn locals have started a monthly get-together for business owners living in the local area. The **Brooklyn Business Lunch** is held on the last Friday of the month at a local eatery, and provides a forum for participants to share ideas, feedback and advice with people in similar circumstances. Following the success of similar sessions in 2009, more guest speakers are planned for some 2010 events, providing universally valuable ideas and insights on small business-related issues. If you are interested in coming along, please contact Andrew Cassin on 0412 761 766 or by emailing andrew@acquisiti.com.

*Written by Mathilde Kearny-Kibble on behalf of the Brooklyn Community Association Committee
Cindy Corkery, Secretary, Brooklyn Community Association, PO Box 239, BROOKLYN NSW 2083*



Many Brooklyn and river residents may not be aware of the varied activities sponsored by UnitingCare within the community. Hopefully the following article from Melanie Claydon, Manager of Acacia Living Life, Northern Sydney Region will interest you and your friends.

What's Happening at ACACIA?

Starting in May UnitingCare Ageing is happy to be able to provide a SHOPPING Trip on the FIRST Thursday of each month. This trip is able to take 10 passengers. Each month the trip will visit a different shopping centre as requested by passengers on previous trips. To start the ball rolling the first trip will be Thursday May 6th to Hornsby. Help is available with your shopping needs. Shop at your leisure or meet friends for morning tea. Pick up is available from your home from 9:00am returning approximately at 2pm. The cost is \$2 and **BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL.**



Heather and Merv playing Indoor Bowls Berowra RSL
Photo courtesy of Acacia Living Life

On the 4th Thursday there is an Outing Group, May's trip is to Gosford Races the cost is \$20 including, transport, entry to the Members Stand and lunch. **BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL.**

Exercise Classes are being provided by UnitingCare for community members OVER 65, they are held in the Brooklyn Community Health Centre Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The classes incorporate strength and balance and are provided by qualified seniors fitness instructors. This is a free service to the Community.

A Bush Walk is planned for Monday 3rd May leav-



Tuesday Mens' Group visit to RAAF Base, Richmond
Photo courtesy of Acacia Living Life

ing the Community Health Centre at 10.30am — bring your hat, sunscreen, water and light snack, such as a sandwich. We are hoping this will become a monthly walk if it proves popular.

ACACIA Living Life has a MENS ONLY Group which happens on a Tuesday. This is an outing group with past trips to Richmond RAAF Base, Parramatta River Cat Trip, Castle Hill Power House Museum Movies, and BBQ's. All group members are involved with the planning of outings. Future outings booked are to Museum of Fire at Penrith and Glen St Theatre, We will pick up from the Brooklyn/Mooney area.

I would also like any feedback to what other services we may be able to offer the community. For Bookings or more information please call Karenne or Melanie on 9456 7103.

New Brooklyn Book Club and Insight Network

A new group is beginning in Brooklyn and servicing nearby areas for those who are interested to discuss, share and investigate various topics at group meetings.

The group will meet to discuss new and diverse publications, books and articles of new and interesting research and topics of interest.

It is planned to meet on a Thursday evening, every second month at the Brooklyn Health Centre Meeting Room. The first meeting is planned for Thursday 13th May 2010 at a mutually suitable time. For those who are interested please contact Deidre Gilmour ph 9985 8586 or email your details to deidre_gilmoure@hotmail.com.

TOUCH FOOTY DAY REPORT by Ross Hoddinott



The most recent Touch Footy Day was very keenly contested in front of a large crowd from all river localities. On a bright sunny day the Wobby team won through to the delight of their followers who reportedly celebrated for the next couple of days in true Wobby style. The standard of play was excellent and, with more

girls now playing, the enthusiasm is strong in the air. Each team had it's own "signature" tune played over the PA system with the Wobby folk encouraged by "sex on the beach" (a little difficult, considering Wobby's rocky shores).

A huge tombola was held with great prizes including houseboat holidays, hotel accommodation in Sydney and meals at local restaurants. A raffle of rugby souvenirs drew large bids and included a ball from the 2009 Bledisloe Cup, signed by both the Australian and New Zealand captains, it brought a successful bid of \$600. The Club thanked the NSW Rugby Union for their fine donation. The seafood raffle comprised a wheelbarrow full of the finest fish...personally selected by local identity and fishing champion Grizzly Bill Wisely who displayed his choices sitting beautifully on a sea of ice. It included a magnificent mud crab, larger than many of the Club members.

Those in the community who have a fondness for Rugby should consider joining the Mud Crabs. Call President Dave on 0412 770606 or catch him as he cheerfully delivers your mail. See you next March for the next Touch Footy Day.

The Brooklyn Rugby Club - IT NEVER LOST A MATCH

Sometime soon when you're passing the Brooklyn Fire Station you'll see a new electronic sign providing fire alerts and community information. It's yet another project funded by the mighty Brooklyn Mud Crabs which have benefited the lower Hawkesbury communities. The Mud Crabs are the Brooklyn Rugby Club, a group of Rugby Union aficionados who gather to watch Super 14 and International matches. It's a "thinking man's club" where the finer points of the game are discussed as each game progresses.

Led by Club President, David Broome and Captain, Doug Fenwick the Club has a proud record of having never lost a match perhaps because the girth and age of the members prevents much "on field" activity. Indeed, viewing is the major

activity of most members who have ancient traditions of playing or refereeing in their pedigrees. Club visitors have included Rugby officials, all of who have been impressed by the friendliness and warm reception, diminished only when New Zealand is playing.

The Club lives on its members' subs and income from activities such as food stalls for the Bridge to Bridge and food and raffle sales at its extremely popular Touch Football Day. Surplus funds go back into the local community and many river kids and families are enjoying the fruits of the Mud Crabs' labour. The Pre-School and After School Centre have been assisted as has the Community Health Centre; all of them in large and significant ways.

Hawkesbury River Lunch Cruise

The Health Centre is having a lunch cruise on the *MV Bayrunner* to some of the more isolated and seldom viewed areas of this beautiful river with commentary on the history and points of interest visited. A buffet lunch will be served along the way. All are welcome to attend and reservations and pre-payment are required. Raffles will be held with prizes donated by local businesses. Money raised will go to purchase much needed equipment for the Health Centre.

Hawkesbury River Lunch Cruise aboard the MV Bayrunner
Sunday, May 16th, 11:15am to 2:30pm, leaving from Kangaroo Point,
\$38 per person includes morning tea, lunch & cruise, \$23 for children under 12 years

Drinks are available for purchase on board
Reservations and pre-payment to Dolphin Boatshed, phone 9985 7307
For more information email info@bayrunner.com.au or
Brooklyn Health Centre, 9985 7717 or jnallan@nsccahs.health.nsw.gov.au

Some of the community sponsors supplying raffle prizes: **ColorDiction**- homeware gift
Carol Verhoeven - a free pilates or kickboxing class, **JJ's** - \$25 gift certificate,
Brooklyn Liquor & Convenience Store - \$25 voucher, **Soyna Beauty Salon** - a facial,
Joanne Scarsbrick - 1.5hr personal yoga session, **Seafood Lifeboat** - seafood platter for 2, \$85