

Gateway

Newsletter of the Brooklyn Community Association, Inc

December 2012

Train and Station Issues Brought Up at Meet the Manager

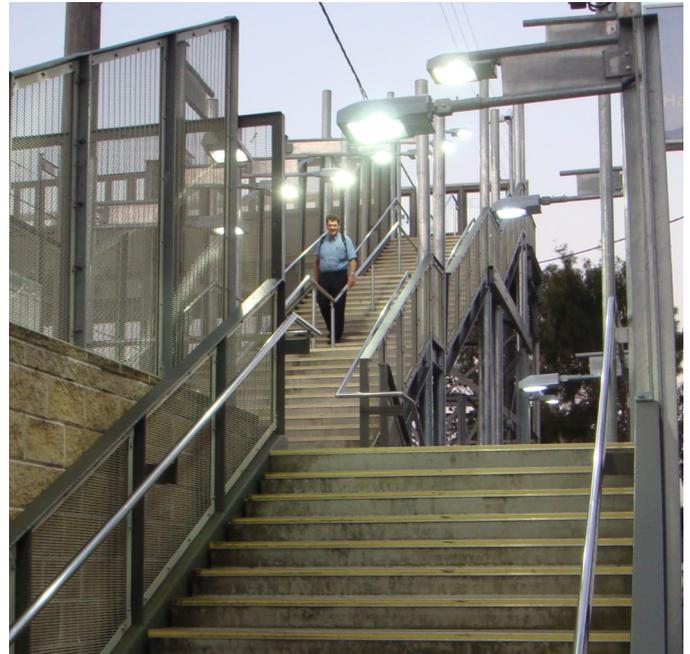
About once a year train stations are visited by their customer service manager who set up shop on the station platform and this past week was Hawkesbury River's turn.

One of the big problems with Hawkesbury River station is that the number of passengers using the station was tallied without regard to the many thousands of students and adults who should and would use the train, but for the lifts needed to get to and from the platform. Brooklyn feeds two important Sports and Recreation sites, at Patonga and Milson Island. Their clients come by bus for the most part as hauling luggage is a real problem even for the very fit and young. Tourist buses, not trains, filled with retirees arrive to enjoy the scenic beauty of our river. Groups of elderly ladies out for the day have been seen getting off the train, looking at the station stairs, bursting into tears and sitting quietly on the bench to catch the next train home. Many day trippers arrive by car because, now that they have the time to enjoy weekday excursions, they may not have the fitness to deal with our station stairs. Then, of course, there are the families with young children. Negotiating the stairs with small ones in tow or, God forbid, in a stroller is simply too daunting and dangerous for many mothers to face. If you are without a car, or in many cases, two cars within a family you are limited to the one bus to Hornsby in the morning and back again in the afternoon. Taking a picnic lunch is a reality for that journey and don't miss the return bus.

If you are elderly, handicapped in some way or just medically incapable of climbing so many stairs you are back on the bus too. Shopping, medical appointments, visiting friend or anything else you might want or need to do is limited to the bus route and hours. But, you know all of this so why bring this painful subject up for the umpteenth time?

Because there has been a change in government. Because the incumbent Minister in charge of our station has expressed a need for more parking at train stations. Because we have an MP in Matt Kean who is aware of our problems and will keep this in mind as the restructuring of the transport services in NSW proceeds. Because almost every train user who stopped and talked to Ted Dunford, Customer Service Manager, Central Coast, wanted to know when we would get a lift. On his next visit Ted will set up his stand at the bottom of the stairs on Dangar Rd so that those who physically couldn't get to speak with him this time can express their views too.

Ted has agreed to come to Brooklyn for an evening meeting of the BCA to talk to river residents about our issues. The lift is



the most important item to discuss we have all agreed but it is not the only one. Some of the others that are easy to identify are commuter parking, time tables, train frequency, missing connecting services due to train delays, noise from misaligned or worn boggies or train wheels and axels and middle of the night train shunting at the station. There are probably more but these seem to be the main issues. Parking in Brooklyn is a topic that the State government and Hornsby Council are currently discussing with some innovative ideas under review.

It has been recommended that we write to our representatives directly. There is nothing like correspondence from one's constituents to encourage a politician to take notice and to back up their requests for support from fellow politicians. We owe it to our selves to try again with this government. *Mathilde Kearny-Kibble*

The Hon. Matt Kean, MP, phone 9476-3411
hornsbym@parliament.nsw.gov.au

P O Box 1687, Hornsby Westfield NSW 1635
and

The Minister for Transport

The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, MP, phone 9228 5266

office@berejiklian.minister.nsw.gov.au

Level 35 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place, SYDNEY NSW 2000

Brooklyn Community Association General Meeting
Saturday December 8th, 10am
at the Meeting Room in the Health Centre
All are welcome to attend

New President's Message

Welcome to the December 2012 issue of the Gateway newsletter, a regular publication of the Brooklyn Community Association. The BCA provides a forum to focus local opinion and to influence Council and Government to make changes and improvements to Brooklyn's local environment. Over the years, the BCA and its former guise, the Brooklyn Ratepayers Association, have been successful in getting sewerage installed in Brooklyn, safer access to Brooklyn railway station, although lifts to the platform would have been preferred, and a shared pedestrian and cyclist path plan. The BCA has helped in numerous ways to improve our life here at the interface between the river and the land.

There are many current issues and initiatives that need local oversight and influence to ensure outcomes meet Brooklyn needs. Parking facilities throughout town, railway station access, Brooklyn Road safety, Kangaroo Point and Peat Island redevelopment, and the state of Brooklyn wharfs are just a few of the major items on the agenda at the moment. The new State Planning proposals will impact us all.

We have an energetic and enthusiastic local Member of State Parliament in Matt Kean, and a new Mayor leading a new Hornsby Council in Steve Russell, who are both willing to listen to Brooklyn residents opinions and to respond to our priorities. They ask that we make our opinions and priorities clear.

Come along to the BCA Meetings, email the BCA on ararnold@iinet.net.au or speak directly to me on 9985 8425 or to the other BCA Committee Members. Make your views known and add to the weight of influence local opinion can achieve with our elected leaders and government agencies. *Rob Arnold*

Snakes Alive



Now that the weather is warming up, some of our more unusual local residents are appearing in the garden. A spot of sunning on a warm rock or stairs, and a good feed are the main items on their agenda. This week my garden has seen the re-appearance of our resident green tree snake (*Dendrelaphis punctulata*).

This pretty little snake can vary in colour although most are green. They have a yellow throat, and an underside which can be blue, green, gray, brown, or yellow. They also have blue flecks on their flanks. The average adult grows to just over a metre in length. Green tree snakes are not poisonous, and they have no fangs. They have only small teeth, and their bite is usually harmless to humans.

Green tree snakes live in trees most of the time, but can also be found on the ground. When they are near water sources, they prefer to stay hidden in long grass or other growth. This not only gives them some protection, but it is a good area to find prey. Their diet consists of frogs, small reptiles such as skinks and geckos, small mammals, and fish. They are diurnal, meaning they are active during daylight hours and rest at night in a safe place such as a tree hollow, under a log or rock, or in heavy foliage. *Karen Arnold*

BCA Meeting Dates of 2013

Thursday, 7/02/2013, 6:30 pm

Saturday, 6/04/2013, 10:00 am

Saturday, 1/06/2013, 10:00 am

Thursday, 1/08/2013, 6:30 pm

Saturday, 5/10/2013, 10:00 am

Saturday, 1/12/2013, 10:00 am

As we start making entries into 2013 calendars, you might consider entering the above meeting dates into your diary. All meetings will take place at the Brooklyn

Meeting Room in the Health Centre. A reminder will appear before the meeting on the RFS electronic board.

Thanks to all of you who helped decide the dates by participating in our first electronic survey which was sent to all members and friends for whom we had current email addresses. If you didn't get an invitation it means we don't have your current email address.

To get future emails including the Gateway newsletter, please send current email address to the BCA Secretary at kearnykibble@ozemail.com.au.

Christmas/New Year Opening Hours Brooklyn Restaurants and Cafe

<p><u>JJ's</u> 9985 7106 8 Dangar Rd, Brooklyn Open 7 days 8.00am to 8.00pm Christmas Day open 9.00 – 2.00pm</p>	<p><u>Hang Gallery and Cafe</u> 0414 765 033 212 Brooklyn Rd, Brooklyn Open 7 days 9.00am to 9.00pm Closed Christmas Day</p>
<p><u>Brooklyn Thai Restaurant</u> 9985 8476 1/5 Bridge St, Brooklyn Open Wed to Sun 12.00 - 9.00 pm and Monday lunch Closed 24th December to 3rd January</p>	<p><u>Anglers Restaurant</u> 9985 7860 216 Brooklyn Rd, Brooklyn NSW Open 7 days/5 nights a week (closed Sunday and Monday nights) Closed Christmas Day</p>
<p><u>Mooney Club</u> 9985 9199 5 Kowan St, Mooney Mooney Lunch: Mon - Sat 12pm - 2.30pm Sunday 11.30 - 3pm Dinner: Sun - Thurs 5.30pm - 8.30pm Fri & Sat 5.30 - 9pm Open Christmas Day for lunch only, but Christmas Day is fully booked Open Boxing Day and New Year's Day</p>	<p><u>JD's Delish @ Twelve</u> 9985 7870 12 Dangar Rd, Brooklyn Open six days 8.30 – 4.00 Closed Tuesday Closed Christmas Day</p>
	<p><u>King Tide Cafe</u> 9985 7102 9 Dangar Rd, Brooklyn Open 7 days 8.00am to 4.30pm Closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day</p>
<p><u>Dangar Island Cafe and Shop</u> 9985 8539 2 Neotsfield Avenue, Dangar Island Open 7 days 9am to 4pm Closed Christmas Day</p>	<p><u>Lifeboat Seafoods</u> 9985 7510 1 Dangar Road, Brooklyn Open 6 days for lunch and dinner</p>

Karen Arnold

Grocery Outlets

<p><u>Don's Boats</u> 9985 7255 General Store and News Agency 214 Brooklyn Road Brooklyn NSW 2083 John & Nancy Yang 7am-7pm every day Open Christmas Day</p>	<p><u>Brooklyn Liquor</u> 9985 7906 General Provisions Hawkesbury River Marina Dangar Road Brooklyn NSW 2083 brooklynliquor@kisntel.com.au Paul Webber 7am-7pm every day except Christmas Day</p>	<p><u>Brooklyn Central</u> 9985 8870 Boat Hire and General Store 81-83 Brooklyn Road Brooklyn NSW 2083 info@brooklyncentral.com.au Bob Copland 6am-5.30pm every day except Christmas Day</p>
<p>reasonably wide range of groceries; bread, milk, soft drinks, ice cream; frozen foods (meat, meals, pizzas; limited range of fruit & vegetables; confectionary; household items, personal items; toys, ornaments, clothing, batteries; newspapers, magazines, greeting cards, DVDs; hardware, garden supplies; fishing tackle, baits.</p>	<p>limited range of groceries; bread, milk, soft drinks, ice cream; frozen foods (meat, meals, pizzas; very limited range of fruit & vegetables; confectionary; household items, personal items, magazines, greeting cards, DVD, hardware, boating supplies; wide range of beer, wine, spirits; fuel pumps on wharf.</p>	<p>very limited range of groceries, breakfast cereals, biscuits, milk); soft drinks, ice cream, snack foods, confectionary; batteries; wide range of fishing tackle, lures , baits.</p>

Brian Neary

Christmas Shopping in Brooklyn

As we head into Christmas, the silly season as some would like to call it, we remember it's a time of giving to those we cherish. Whilst larger towns and shopping areas are going to be full of Christmas shoppers trying to buy gifts, why not avoid the crush, hustle and bustle and shop locally! Brooklyn has plenty to offer in the way of Christmas gifts as well as any upcoming events. Get yourself in the Christmas spirit without leaving home! Take a look at what Brooklyn has to offer.

River Dreams

Our first stop is River Dreams, down at the Hawkesbury River Marina. With their collection of absolutely fabulous gifts, fashion and homewares it should be your first stop in getting that essential gift. With their fantastic "Happiness is not a Destination It is a Way of Life" and "No place like home" signs, it should be easy for anyone to find something to brighten up the home. There are also some great Christmas decorations already in stock, a perfect way to get your house into the spirit. For more information, check out their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/River-Dreams-Gift-Shop/155546084467245>

Broken Spines open 7 days in weeks before Christmas. Open until 7pm on Thursdays and Fridays

Our local book shop of surprises and wonders on Bridge Street. For all of those literary minded, the shelves are stacked with all ranges and titles to suit everyone. If you're in search of a bargain you'll be pleased to hear about the upcoming December Sale! Simply spend \$30 and then get 50% off on any further purchases! Broken Spines is also your destination for some of our local Christmas Events. On the 19th December, there will be a Victorian Christmas Evening. This is a Gold coin donation event where two short films will be shown. Plus for all poetry lovers, there will be a poetry slam coming. Details are still being finalised and as always you should check the notice board outside!! Finally Broken Spines will be looking to be . Again, check out their facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BrokenSpines>

Post Office open 6 days a week, with Saturday openings 10-12

If you've ever walked into our Brooklyn post office, you'll know that it's not just stamps and letters inside. In fact we have an Aladdin's Cave of delights. Yes, there are Christmas cards and stamps and wrapping paper as you'd expect but there is also everything for your IT and Technological needs this holiday season. From everything from the latest accessories for tablets and iPads, to Printers and scanners. Not only that, there are mobile phones available for with great options, as well as anything and everything for office or stationary minded. Generally always cheaper than office works and if it's not in stock can usually be gotten within the next day or so.

Hang open 7 days 9-5 pm in the lead up to Christmas, only closing Christmas Day

Not only suppling Brooklyn with Glee coffee, Hang offers a range of stock such as hand made ceramics, hanging lanterns, votives, shoes as well as local art. With each visit you're likely to be spotting something you missed the previous time! Not only is there complementary wrapping for purchases, they also have in store gift vouchers. And further great news for locals, if you mention this article for 10% discount offer (not to be combined with any other). Finally, Hang will be running a \$100 and under exhibition in the lead up to Christmas with various types of art available by various artists. As always, Check out Hang's Facebook page for some shots of the stock and exhibition details: <https://www.facebook.com/HANGGALLERY>. *Tim O'Mahony*



Hawkesbury River Community Directory Launch

The Hawkesbury River Community Directory was launched on Thursday 29 November at the Broken Spines Bookshop, with drinks, nibbles, and a crowd of Brooklyn locals. Directory co-founder and Editor Donnie Maclurcan introduced the Directory and thanked the many contributors.

The Directory brings together the interests, knowledge, skills and resources that residents and local business owners are willing to share, and includes over 500 items in its first edition. The Directory is an outstanding example of initiative and cooperation between a dedicated team of local people. The first edition has been printed and will be distributed to residents over the next few weeks. A second edition (and maybe an online version) is on the drawing boards. If you would like to enquire about your copy, or register your interest in the second edition, contact the Directory Team on contact@hrcd.org.au. *Robert Arnold*