

Gateway

Newsletter of the Brooklyn Community Association, Inc

April 2013



Disaster in the Oyster Industry

At the February meeting of the BCA, President of the Broken Bay Oyster Association, John Stubbs and Steve Jones, past-President, provided an update to the community on the disaster that recently hit the Hawkesbury River and some of the history that has led to this point.

Pacific oysters grown in the Hawkesbury are triploids, that is, they are sterile and cannot reproduce. Once forbidden, the Pacific oysters have been grown since QX wiped out the Sydney Rock oysters in 2005. The clean-up of 8000 tons of dead stocks, redundant oyster infrastructure (tarred sticks, trays, poles and racks) from the Hawkesbury River following QX was done by local oystermen at a bargain cost to government of \$2.7 million, in contrast to the post Georges River QX outbreak clean-up which cost the government significantly more. Since QX the local industry has completely reinvented the way it farms oysters, using QX resistant spats and environmentally friendly equipment and techniques for which the 14 Association members have won numerous awards and international recognition for their environmental sensitivity and oyster quality.

BBOA was awarded the Landcare Primary Producer Award in the 2009 Hawkesbury Nepean Landcare Awards. Rob Moxham received a Commended Award in the 2008 NSW Oyster Industry Environmental Champion Award for the 'Hawkesbury River Clean-up' following the QX disease outbreak.

The present problem is Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome, POMS, first detected in the Hawkesbury January 21, 2013 in Mullet Creek. The creek was immediately closed and the Department of Primary Industry confirmed that the sample tested was positive for POMS. Two days later all the oysters in the area were dead. This same disease hit Georges Creek and Sydney Harbour in 2010. POMS was diagnosed in Brisbane Waters on February 6th.

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Brooklyn Community Association General Meeting

**Saturday, April 6, 2013, 10am to noon,
at the Brooklyn Meeting Room (in the Health Centre)**

Matt Kean, NSW Member of Parliament for Hornsby, will be attending to give an update on a number of topics, including the Peat Island redevelopment plans, a Brooklyn parking master plan, rail noise and the consolidation of the Police's Hornsby and Hills Local Area Commands.

All are welcome to attend.

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Resistant family lines of Pacific oysters are being grown and tested here at ASI in Port Stevens and in France, 42 and 2,000 lines in each facility respectively. The oyster industry hasn't really recovered from QX and this latest crisis is a severe blow for the industry and community. Industry representatives met with the Minister for Primary Industries in February and a letter was sent from the BCA to the Minister in support of the oyster farmers pointing out the devastation POMS would have to our community.

Mr Stubbs is reported to have said the Department of Primary Industries had been too slow to deliver the disease-resistant larvae and that the assistance announced last month was far from sufficient to keep the industry afloat. In newspapers in March, it has been reported that John has resigned as President of the Broken Bay Oyster Association in the wake of the virus's devastation of Hawkesbury growers. According to reports, he will sell his Mooney Mooney business, along with fellow fourth-generation oyster farmer Rob Moxham, after his entire crop was wiped out by POMS.

It's tragic to see the oyster industry devastated for a second time, possibly ending an industry that has existed in the Hawkesbury River since the 1870's



McKell Park Upgrade Plans

Council is proposing to undertake upgrade works to the facilities at McKell Park Brooklyn in mid 2013. The work includes a new playground, picnic shelters and concrete paths and is outlined on the landscape concept plan above. This proposal was placed on public exhibition late last year via signs on site and Council's website. The BCA was provided a chance to comment on the concept plan, and in our response, we confirmed that the community was very appreciative of the work performed by the Council, in particular the redevelopment done at Parsley Bay.

Some of the existing facilities are not shown on the plan. There are trash bins currently located at McKell Park including some located near the point, picnic area and within the playground. Council will not be removing any bins however Council is looking at ways to try and minimise their visual impact and provide new bin stands such as at Parsley Bay. There is currently a recycling bin bay located opposite the Hawkesbury River Marina. Council will place an additional recycling bin at McKell Park as a trial and observe if it is successful or not. There is also an existing seat at the end of the Point. Council will investigate if there is space to install similar benches at other locations near the Point.

A fishing tackle repository was previously installed at the Brooklyn Point. This repository was removed because it was vandalised and the recycling of fishing tackle proved difficult due to continual cross contamination via general waste being placed in it. This repository was part of a trial program which no longer supports their replacement.

David De-Fina, Landscape Architect/Project Manager in Parks & Recreation of Hornsby Shire Council, email dde-fina@hornsby.nsw.gov.au, welcomes feedback on the concept plan from the community.

President's Message

Welcome to the April 2013 issue of the Gateway newsletter, a regular publication of the Brooklyn Community Association. To those new to the area, 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. Matt Kean, our energetic and enthusiastic local Member of State Parliament, will be addressing the April 2013 meeting of the Brooklyn Community Association, on subjects including:

- Oyster Industry in the Hawkesbury
- Peat Island developments
- Brooklyn Strategy & Parking Study
- State Planning Changes
- Other state initiatives

Both Matt Kean and Steve Russell, Mayor Hornsby Council, are willing to listen to Brooklyn residents opinions and to respond to our priorities. Come along to the BCA Meetings, email the BCA at president@brooklyncommunity.org.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.

Robert Arnold, President

Solicitor at Brooklyn Health Centre

On Monday, April 8th, the Brooklyn Health Centre has a Solicitor willing to give time to provide information on wills and power of attorney. This is a free session and Hornsby Council will provide a morning tea. Put your names down at the Centre if you would like to attend or phone Jennifer Allan, Centre Coordinator, Brooklyn Community Health Centre & GP Unit, 9985 7717



Storm damage in McKell Park - storms that hit the north and central coast of NSW in February left a major tree down in McKell Park at Brooklyn, and severely damaged two cars in the car park.

Brooklyn Community Association Meeting Dates

The following are the meeting dates set for the rest of the year. Please take a moment and to enter them into your diary.

Saturday, 1 June 2013, 10:00 am
Thursday, 1 August 2013, 6:30 pm
Saturday, 5 October 2013, 10:00 am
Saturday, 30 November 2013, 10:00 am



Brooklyn Town Directory Sign Needs Upgrading

Brooklyn's town directory, on Brooklyn Rd as you enter town, needs to be refreshed, as many of the businesses have changed or closed, and new ones started. The Brooklyn Community Association plans to investigate updating the sign to reflect the businesses here in Brooklyn now.

Brooklyn Rural Fire Service Wants You!

Brooklyn Rural Fire Service is looking to boost its ranks and is looking for volunteers from our community. The Rural Fire Service is made up of volunteers from all walks of life - men and women from different cultural backgrounds, age groups and professions. Rural fire brigades are a reflection of every local community.

Becoming a volunteer fire fighter is easier than most people think. Brigades offer training ranging from bush fire fighting, village fire fighting and first aid to breathing apparatus operation. We don't just offer fire fighting roles, we have a multitude of areas that require volunteers. Communications, catering, logistics, planning and aviation support are critical - there is a job for nearly everyone in the RFS. We rely heavily on the support of people from all backgrounds and cultures in our community. The people that make up our Service are as different as the society that we protect.

For more information or if you think you would like to consider volunteering, come down to the Fire Station Tuesdays at 7.30pm, see <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/> or contact Jon Gaibor on 0437 996 640.



Rubbish at Parsley Bay

Easter is a busy time at the boat ramps and is hard on the facilities in Brooklyn. Parsley Bay in particular is handling lots of boat movements and as a consequence, lots of rubbish from the boating community. This photo was taken on Easter Sunday morning, with two days of the holiday to go. *Karen Arnold*

Written by members of the Brooklyn Community Association Committee, PO Box 239, Brooklyn, NSW 2083.
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