

# Gateway

Newsletter of the Brooklyn Community Association, Inc

July 2013

## Kangaroo Point - Tourist Destination on the Hawkesbury



Work started in March on improving one of the Shire's most beautiful recreational spots, Kangaroo Point in Brooklyn. Major park improvements and a new restaurant and takeaway kiosk facility are being constructed. With superb panoramic views over the Hawkesbury River and the Railway Bridge, it's already a popular lookout, picnic and fishing spot for locals and visitors. It also has significant indigenous and European heritage.

Over the coming months Council will revitalise and improve the park with the construction of two public viewing decks, an enlarged lawn area for picnics and outdoor recreation, a pathway with stairs and the construction of formal car park to meet current car parking standards. The park improvement works will be paid for using funds received from the sale of the Brooklyn Sewerage Treatment Plant site to Sydney Water last year.

The old food bar has now been demolished and is being replaced with a restaurant and takeaway food kiosk as part of a 21 year lease of the food bar site to a private operator, Gen March Pty Ltd. The park will be closed for periods throughout the year while construction and landscaping works take place.

## President's Report by Robert Arnold, BCA President

Brooklyn is running hot with Council works at the moment. We seem to have council workers and contractors all around the town, McKell Park upgrade, including shared concrete path for pedestrians and cyclists, restoration of interpretive signs, new shelters and bench seating, new playground equipment and tree planting along the foreshore, Parsley Bay sandstone seawalls, to provide habitat for marine life, protection of the foreshore and improved community access to the estuary. We also have Brooklyn Road safety fencing on the entry into town, Brooklyn Road Stage 1 curb and gutter, drainage and shared path (57 to 87 Brooklyn Rd) and Kangaroo Point (summarised above).

Hornsby Council is finalising design for the Shared Cycle Path west of Wharf St and for the Boardwalk from Dolphin Marina to the Sewerage Treatment Plant. Priority and timing of construction is subject to funding sources becoming available over the next year. Plans to re-sheet the Brooklyn Wharf access road and the Parsley Bay Loading Dock access road are well underway. And finally, the culverts on Brooklyn Rd near Cole St will be addressed later in 2013.

The Brooklyn Community Association and the Dangar Island League are liaising on items of common interest, to determine whether consolidated actions can have an increased effect. A key item on the common agenda is improved internet services, with hopefully a chance to move up the NBN priority list.

## Brooklyn Community Association General Meeting

**Thursday, August 1, 2013, 6:30pm - 8pm**, Brooklyn Meeting Room (in the Health Centre)

David De-Fina, Landscape Architect/Project Manager in Parks and Recreation of Hornsby Shire Council will be talking to us about Council projects, designing and developing the landscaped and shoreline areas around Brooklyn and Kangaroo Point that have made our home a more beautiful and useful place in which to live. All are welcome. **Please note that this is an evening weekday meeting.**

## **TV Blackspots and Analog to Digital - A Work in Progress**

**by Liz Surrest**

I don't know about you, but being disappointed with my TV reception, I decided to investigate more about the digital changeover and also the VAST satellite service on which the government is offering subsidies for installation. I discovered that we are eligible for VAST satellite TV (Imparja, etc) because we live in a blackspot area and a simple application form on the internet gave me immediate permission to get access. I have spoken with John Mitchell, our TV aerial guru (0412 340 008), and he advises the cost to install would be roughly \$800. I then wondered about the government subsidy and made some enquiries. This subsidy application must be applied for and lodged before the December 3<sup>rd</sup> when the analogue signal is switched over to digital in Sydney.

It appears that many of us are not eligible for this subsidy and have to lodge an appeal, as the government believe that most of us have reasonable signal strength in our area (which is quite opposite to what the VAST website publicise). I questioned why, when a couple of years ago I queried a contractor who was taking data in Peat Street for digital switchover purposes and he said we would never get any decent TV. Also, I remembered that some of us in the area relayed our analogue signal from Fenwicks Marina. You can simply type in your address on the Digital Ready website to find out your whether you are eligible for the subsidy, or whether you need to fight/appeal the Federal government for it.

The chap at Digital Ready, the government people, advised me that if we lived in Patonga we would get immediate assistance. This is because they have a community or Council funded analogue TV relay tower which is not getting replaced. Someone told me to put my address down as Brooklyn Rd, Patonga on my application. They thought it might help in getting a subsidy. I told him Patonga is in a different Council area and I didn't think it would work. But I'm willing to give anything a go....

Anyway, since I started this endeavour I've made a spreadsheet on disruptions to my coverage. I keep a pen and paper handy and mark down every time there is an interruption. One Thursday alone, in five viewing hours, I recorded a whopping 711 disruptions! That was a bad day. A lot of locals I have spoken to also have problems, like not getting Channel 10 on their second TV, or the ABC going off the air for hours on end at night, etc.

I thought it would be good to circulate the locals, to help them with the process, and to get a clear idea of the extent of the problem. Then, maybe, we can lobby the government to give us a decent signal perpetually, or at least recognise we are definitely in a blackspot area, get an immediate subsidy or perhaps even a relay tower.

On another note, I recently received correspondence from State Rail advising they intend installing two digital radio towers on the railway line nearby. I have tried to contact them to no avail, to find out whether a digital TV relay tower might be able to be attached to one of these towers, but that is a project for another day! Perhaps this is an issue for Matt Kean, Phillip Ruddock and Hornsby Council to tackle on our behalf.

## **RailCorp to Demolish Derelict House**



Last year the burnt out remains of one of our old railway houses was removed after lobbying by community members that the building posed a safety risk to the trains, the track itself and to anyone daring to enter the house. This year, the house on the northern side of the line has been marked for demolition.

This house has now had barricades erected around it and we have been told it will soon be demolished and the site possibly used for RailCorp storage. One of the real problems with the site is that it is thought to be heavily laden with asbestos and this will need to be carefully removed when the house is demolished.

It's always sad to see old buildings reach their use by date and these two old houses are no exception. They will be missed by all who walk across the bridge and look down.

# Brooklyn Spring Fair and Markets 2013

The Spring Fair and Markets will take place on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September, at Brooklyn Oval from 10am to 4pm. Included will be live entertainment showcasing talented local artists, fun-filled rides, refreshments, market and food stalls, including the Rural Fire Service barbecue. About 70 stalls are expected.

The Spring Fair is the major fund-raising activity of Hawkesbury River Child Care, HRCC, which has been in operation in Brooklyn for 21 years. HRCC is a not-for-profit organization and receives only low-level government assistance. The success of the Spring Fair will be a vital factor in enabling them to continue providing essential child care services to Brooklyn and river communities in the lower Hawkesbury region.

HRCC provides long day care (7am-6pm) for up to 16 children, aged from six weeks to school-age, before-and-after school care for up to 20 school-age children and vacation care for school-age children. Supervision and care are provided by highly qualified and dedicated staff. For information contact HRCC at PO Box 71, Brooklyn NSW 2083, phone 9985 7362 or email [hrcc@maxi.net.au](mailto:hrcc@maxi.net.au) For stall bookings, email [brooklynspringfair@gmail.com](mailto:brooklynspringfair@gmail.com) or 0497-301-477.

## Ad for an Ad

The Brooklyn Community Association invites local businesses to advertise their products and services in the Gateway newsletter. The newsletter is published about four times per year, and is distributed free to all local residents (by email and/or by hand). An business card sized ad in the Gateway costs \$20 per issue and helps support the Brooklyn Community Association's activities. The next issue will be published in late September 2013. If you are interested in advertising, please email [president@brooklyncommunity.org.au](mailto:president@brooklyncommunity.org.au) or call Robert Arnold on 02 9985 8425.



## First Stage of Brooklyn Road Shared Path Underway

Finding asbestos in the road excavation set the original work back six months. However, over the last few weeks we have seen renewed action as the first part of the work has begun in earnest to create a safe walking and cycling path. Most of us have experienced the one way traffic signal and watching the progress of the road works that has disrupted traffic but it will all be worth it.

The stormwater flooding problem that this section of Brooklyn Road has endured is being addressed and, as the kerb and guttering on the southern side of the road and the shared path/cycleway are taking shape, we can begin to see what a difference it will make to Brooklyn Road and our community.

Hornsby Council is finalising design for the work west of Wharf St and for the boardwalk from Dolphin Marina to the Sewerage Treatment Plant. Priority and timing of construction is subject to funding sources becoming available over the next year. Plans to re-sheet the Brooklyn Wharf access road and the Parsley Bay loading dock access road are well underway. And finally, the culverts on Brooklyn Rd near Cole St will be addressed later in 2013.

## Become a Member of the Brooklyn Community Association

The BCA invites local residents and businesses to join the Association. The Association and its earlier incarnation, the Brooklyn Ratepayers Association, have been successful in interfacing with Hornsby Council and the NSW Government, and achieving improvements for the town. By joining the Association, you can influence actions in Brooklyn and maybe fix those things that irritate you. Membership costs \$5 per family per year. You can pay at our meeting on August 1st, or make a direct deposit to the Brooklyn Community Association Inc, BSB: 633-000 Account: 12935718. *The following are the BCA meeting dates for the rest of the year. Please take a moment to enter them in your diary.* Saturday, 5 October, 10:00am and Saturday, 30 November 2013, 10:00am, both at the Meeting Room.





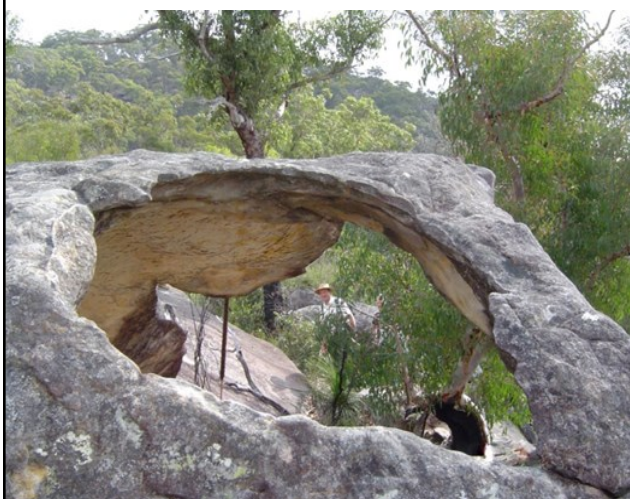
## The New Shuttle Bus to Help Our Less Mobile Residents

Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Community Aged/Disabled Transport Service Inc. provides transport services to the frail aged, people with a disability and their carers living independently in their own homes in Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai Local Government areas. The service is managed by a voluntary Board of Directors drawn from a diverse section of the community including consumers, local government, and community and business sector workers. The service is working with the Brooklyn Community Health Centre to introduce a new bus service that will provide door to door bus transport services in the Brooklyn/Mooney Mooney area. The bus is specially modified to make it easily accessible for people who have difficulty climbing stairs and it can also carry one wheelchair. Clients must be registered to use the service and priority is given to frail aged people, people with a disability and their carers. If seats are available, we may be able to transport other people who have difficulty accessing transport in the area. Tuesday and Wednesday the service will transport clients attending appointments and/ or activities at Brooklyn Community Health Centre. Friday the service will transport clients to the Berowra Shopping Centre. We are able to offer a door to door service and help people on and off the bus with their shopping. For enquiries regarding cost, eligibility and how to register, please call 9983 1611.

## The Big Band High Tea

The Big Band High Tea raised over \$600 for the Health Centre. The money is being used to buy a new instrument trolley and a children's animal eye chart. Thank you to all those who attended and to the many volunteers who donated food and help to make the day a success.

## Muogamarra Nature Reserve - A Wildflower Riot

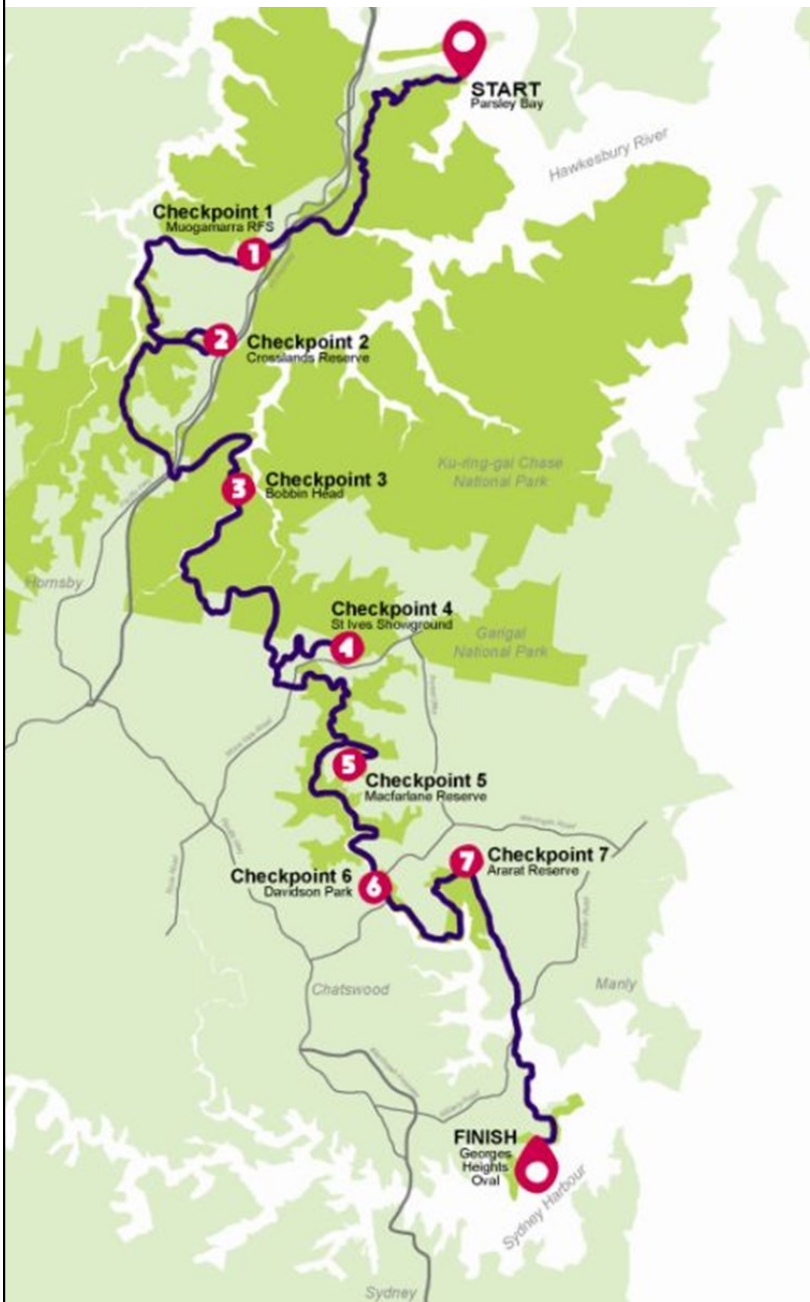


*Open Saturday and Sunday 9.00am to 4.30pm for six weekends from 10<sup>th</sup> August to 15<sup>th</sup> September.  
Cost: \$10 adults, \$5 children, \$25 family (2A+3C)  
To book a guided walk, phone 9253 0888, book online,  
<http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au> or go on a range of self guided walks.*

Created in 1935, Muogamarra covers approximately 2500 ha and is managed to preserve the 900 plant variety of the Hawkesbury Sandstone vegetation communities. See Aboriginal rock engravings and learn about the area's significance on a Muogamarra indigenous heritage walk or enjoy the breathtaking display of wildflowers found at this time of year.

# Ever Wonder Where the Oxfam Walkers Go?

Oxfam Trailwalker Sydney 2013 will be held on 23-25 August and will see 550 teams walk 100km within 48 hours from the Hawkesbury to the Harbour. The challenging Sydney trail features the well-known Great North Walk and the Harbour to Hawkesbury Walking Track which lie in the rugged and beautiful bushland of northern Sydney.



The trail begins in our beautiful river-side township of Brooklyn on the Hawkesbury River. Starting with picturesque views across the Hawkesbury from the Start at Parsley Bay, the trail quickly enters the bush — joining the Great North Walk as you begin your journey southward to Sydney.

The trail then winds its way through the northernmost reaches of Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and Berowra Regional Valley Park, presenting you with the greatest challenges of the event while you're still fresh.

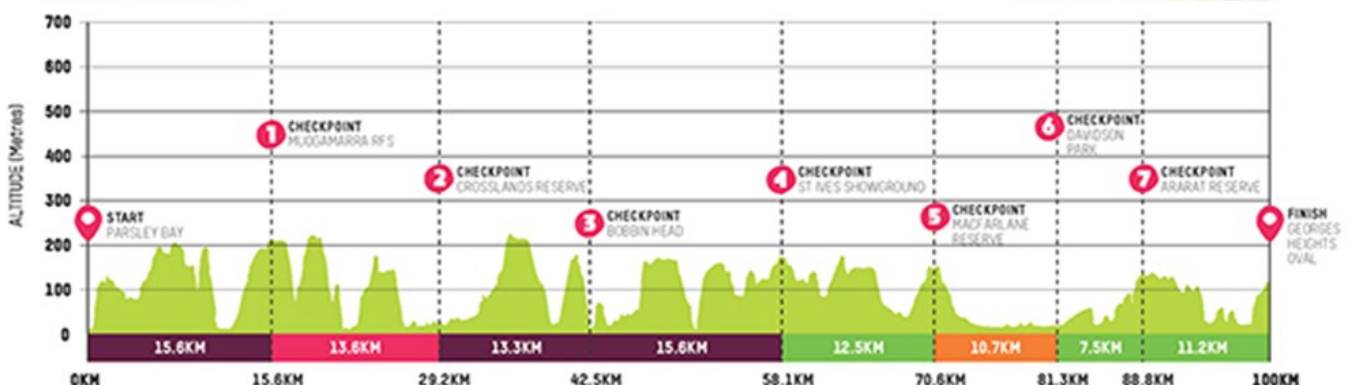
But don't get too comfortable — it's not all downhill to the Harbour! The trail has many twists, turns, ascents and descents along the rugged bush tracks of the Mt Ku-ring-gai, Bobbin Head, Sphinx, and Warrimoo trails before reaching Garigal National Park. The trail then traverses the Harbour to Hawkesbury Walking Track (in reverse) as it follows Middle Harbour Creek from its beginnings into Middle Harbour proper.

From Davidson Park onwards the trail offers numerous stunning views, which become more spectacular as you approach the finish line. The last kilometre rewards you as you walk high above Sydney Harbour looking out through Sydney Heads, before the triumphant finish at Georges Heights Oval in Mosman.

(thanks to the Oxfam Australia website)

## TRAIL PROFILE

DIFFICULTY RATING: 1 2 3 4





# Matt Kean Supports Brooklyn Public School



Hornsby Liberal State MP Matt Kean visited Brooklyn Public School recently to open the School's Parliament and join in Jump Rope for Heart activities. Mr Kean said he was impressed with the students parliamentary debate and knowledge of Australian politics. "I think it's fantastic the students are taking such an active interest and learning through practical exercises," Mr Kean said.

Following the school parliamentary session the students started their Jump Rope for Heart activities and even convinced Mr Kean and school principal Jeanie Brown to try their hand at skipping. "It's been a long-time since I skipped but everyone had fun and the students seemed to really enjoy their Principal and I joining in their Jump Rope program," said Mr Kean. While visiting the school Mr Kean also presented a cheque for \$10,000 which will go towards the school's Outdoor Learning Centre as part of the Community Building Partnerships program.

