

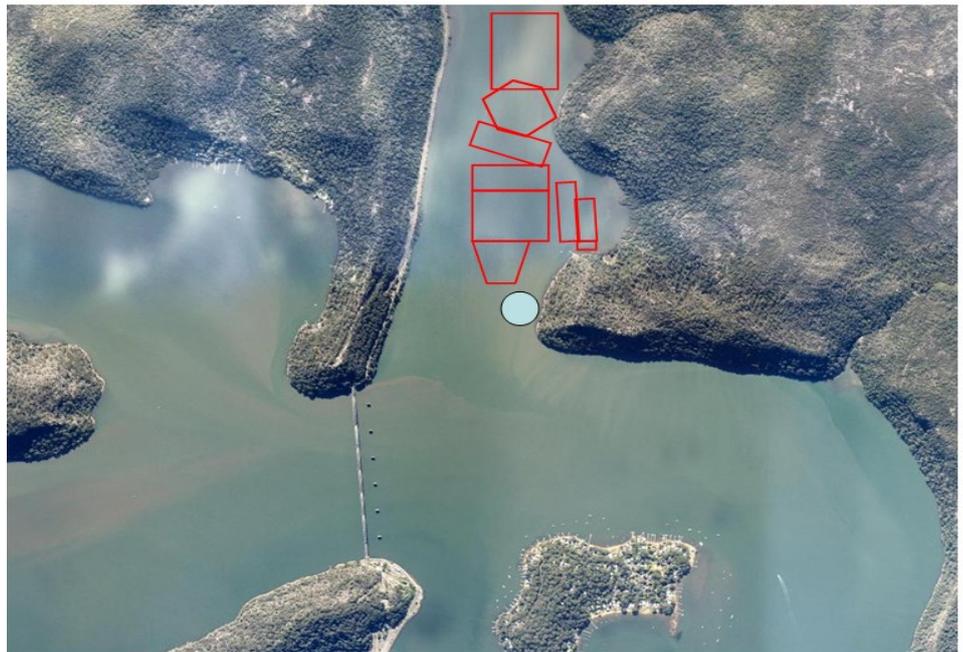
Gateway

Newsletter of the Brooklyn Community Association, Inc

October 2013

Mullet Creek Probe to Assist Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS) Research

Peter Coad from Hornsby Shire Council has notified interested residents that a probe will be deployed at the meeting of Mullet Creek and the Hawkesbury River, to the east of the rail bridge, for a period from September 2013 for 12 months. The probe will monitor water quality conditions associated with the onset of POMS within the Hawkesbury. POMS is anticipated to be in the estuary around November of this year.



-  Oyster leases
-  Approx. location for probe deployment

The deployment is part of a joint program between Hornsby Shire Council and the University of Sydney. The data collected will greatly assist the local oyster industry and research efforts in understanding POMS dynamics within the Hawkesbury. As far as practical the probe will be located away from main navigation channels and riverside houses.

Above is a picture of the Mullet Creek probe being used for oyster research. Data from the probe and all Hawkesbury probes is displayed at: <http://mhl.nsw.gov.au/projects/hscsal/> and this data is update every six hours. If you are boating near the probe, care should be taken to avoid damaging it. If you would like more information, direct any queries to Peter Coad, Natural Resources Strategy Manager, Hornsby Shire Council at pcoad@hornsby.nsw.gov.au. We wish our oyster farmers the best for the summer.

Brooklyn Community Association Annual General Meeting to be held Saturday, October 5, 2013, 10am - noon, Brooklyn Meeting Room

Besides the normal business of the AGM, the guest speaker will be Detective Inspector Luke Spurr, Customer Service Duty Officer, Kuring-Gai Local Area Command, NSW Police Force, to discuss policing in Brooklyn. All are invited to attend.

The BCA invites members to nominate for the BCA Committee. Please contact President Robert Arnold if you are interested or would like more information. email president@brooklyncommunity.org.au or phone 0418 404 902.

Any Excuse to Spend Time on The River

Every year the volunteers at Marine Rescue Hawkesbury help organise the safety network for many special events on the Hawkesbury River, including the Bridge to Bridge Power Boat race in May from Brooklyn to Windsor, the 120 Water Ski Race in August held between Wiseman's Ferry and Windsor, the Canoe Classic held in October from Windsor to Brooklyn and the Bridge to Bridge Water Ski Race from Brooklyn to Windsor.

Marine Rescue Hawkesbury organise safety check point vessels on most bends along the River for these events; over a two day event this will mean over 80 check points from Brooklyn to Windsor. In order to find enough vessels to man the check points we invite privately owned boats to participate. That means they are always looking for vessels willing to help out. Any registered, insured vessel with a VHF and/or 27Mhz radio is welcome to participate.

Each check point vessel is given a set of coloured flags and full instructions and details of the radio frequencies to be used and all other race information needed. Contact is maintained by the use of marine radios. The flags are used to indicate any hazards ahead just as in car racing. Marine Rescue Hawkesbury also organise medical teams located along the river to respond to any emergencies.

They will keep in touch with volunteers by email, mail or phone. Usually eight weeks prior to each of the events listed above they contact the volunteer flotilla. If you are available, they allocate a check point to you in an area that suits you. If you need extra crew, they can provide volunteers or you can invite your friends to help. This is one of the best ways to watch these events and can be considered FRONT ROW SEATS. If you would like to join Marine Rescue Hawkesbury's check point volunteers, please email: eventshawkesbury@yahoo.com.au, phone the base on 9985 9012 or Peter Moore on 0418 433 388.

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Locals Celebrate Their 10th Canoe Classic Saturday and Sunday 26-27 October

Three local kayakers are celebrating their 10th year in the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic - Mark Glendenning, Andrew (Buck) Rogers and Dave Peddley. It all started with a challenge from an unnamed friend who said "if our wives are walking in the Oxfam Trailwalker, we should do the Classic." Well, the three went through with it and are celebrating their 10th trip this October.

Mark, Buck and Dave soon found out that it was best not to stop at each rest area - it added lots of time to their paddle and the following year they were able to shave off four hours by not stopping every 10 km to eat Lamingtons and have a cup of tea!. They continue to try and achieve their personal best but sometimes get hung up. Mark was caught in a cow fence and missed his PB last year. Two years ago, Buck had to stop and rescue a fellow kayaker, not once but twice....the same person! Dave seems to always shave a bit of time off each year despite not training too much! Best of luck this year to all three.

Become a Member of the Brooklyn Community Association

The BCA invites local residents, businesses and people who work in Brooklyn to become members of our local association. The BCA 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 BCA, you can influence actions in Brooklyn and maybe fix those things that irritate you. Membership is \$5 per individual or family per year. You can pay at our meeting October 5th, or make a direct deposit to the BCA at the Bendigo bank Berowra **BSB: 633-000 Account: 12935718**.

After the AGM the BCA meets on Saturday, November 30th, 10:00am, the Meeting Room.

Muogamarra... Another Successful Season Closes



Muogamarra Nature Reserve gates closed for the year on 15th September after a very successful season. For many people visiting Muogamarra has become an annual event. Each of the six weekend the Reserve is open an average of 500 people came to enjoy the walks, wildflowers and scenery and the Father's Day weekend recorded attendance of more than 1000 people from all over Sydney.

Most people hear about it by word of mouth; from a friend who's been before or because they live locally. Our local newspapers and radio (thanks to Simon Marnie) have all helped. We even got a mention in the Qantas magazine.

What you may not know is that Muogamarra is staffed and run by volunteers in the National Parks Discovery program. This group of volunteers is based at the Kalkari Discovery Centre in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. As well as staffing Muogamarra each year, they run a program of walks, talks and kayak trips throughout the year. This includes school holiday activities and a regular Coast Alive event held at Bobbin Head.

National Parks is currently recruiting a new intake of volunteers. Training of volunteers is given by a number of dedicated, experienced people, including Brooklyn's own Tom Richmond who each year comes to Muogamarra to instruct the latest intake in the history of this special area. If you are interested in finding out more about the program contact the Kalkari Discovery Centre, phone 9472 9300, 9.00am to 5.00pm daily.



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Swimming Conditions Map

Go to <http://new.mhl.nsw.gov.au/users/HSC/> if you are thinking about a swim in the Hawkesbury or watch a fun video promoting the maps at this youtube site: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LwJtcoepNtQ>. These swimming condition maps use salinity data to predict the likelihood of bacterial contamination at swimming sites in the Hawkesbury. The occurrence of freshwater in the estuary following rainfall increases the likelihood of pollution being present. Obvious signs of stormwater pollution are water discoloration as well as debris in the water and tide line. When pollution is likely, swimmers may be at increased risk of contracting illness and swimming at these times should be avoided.

Presidents Report

Robert Arnold, President

Possibly for the first time ever, Brooklyn's political representatives at all three levels of government are in power. Whatever your political opinion and however you vote, we have an unprecedented opportunity to get things done in Brooklyn.

Philip Ruddock represents Berowra and is a member of the Federal Government.

Matt Kean represents Hornsby and is a member of the State Government.

Steve Russell is Mayor of Hornsby Council and is from A Ward (our Ward).

In many years in the 2000's, our representatives (at least State and Federal) were in opposition and unable to influence policy. Now that's changed and we can influence policy for Brooklyn and the river communities.

Come along to the Brooklyn Community Association meetings, email the BCA at president@brooklyncommunity.org.au or speak directly to me on 0418 404 902 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.

Landcare Winners Announced

At the recent NSW Landcare Awards, Macmasters Beach Surf Life Saving Club won the People's Choice Award whilst Brisbane Waters Secondary School was a highly commended finalist in the Coastcare Category for the work they have been doing in the Hawkesbury estuary on litter clean-ups. Since 2010 Macmasters SLSC have been working hard to remove litter from the foreshores of the Hawkesbury Estuary, working in partnership with the National Parks & Wildlife Service, Hornsby and Gosford Councils and the Hawkesbury Nepean CMA. Local Landcare groups, businesses, schools and more than 170 people have been involved in clearing up pollution in the Hawkesbury estuary.

Hawkesbury River Clean-up

Nine students of the Rolland Hassall High School in conjunction with Hornsby Shire Council and Gosford Council, and with input from National Parks, periodically perform a rubbish collection and clean-up of parts of the Hawkesbury River, Long Island, Little Wobby and Sandbrook Inlet, the western beach of Milson Island and parts of the Derrubben boat ramp funded from the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority "Caring for our Country" grant. They were here in August and September.



The team collected 23 bags of rubbish including large items - two 40 litre drums, truck and car tyres, plastic buckets and chairs, a large piece of foam approximately 3m x 1m pictured here in the tender, a foam mattress and two large oyster trays lodged between the rocks. Masses of polystyrene and many plastic bags and bottles were also collected. The approximate weight removed was 240kg. Thick mud made the job difficult but the workers are heartened by the positive support from local fisherman and residents.

Lawrence Nagy of Council's Traffic and Road Safety Responds to Queries About Brooklyn Road and The Shared Path

1. What are the resurfacing plans for Brooklyn Rd, there has been a lot of marking up of the potholes etc?

A. *The markings show where heavy patching will be carried out as part of Council's general pavement maintenance program.*

2. There is a rumour that the new road put down after the footpath/shared cycleway may need to be dug up again. Are there plans for any utility upgrades that might be the reason for this rumour?

A. *The only additional work planned involves regrading the pavement near a drainage pit to correct a low spot that has formed. There are no plans to dig up any part of the new work.*

3. What are the works planned for the next few years?

A. *Installing new culverts to widen Brooklyn Road near Coles Street (this year). Subject to funding commencing Stage 1b of the cycleway in future years.*

4. The plans for the shared pathway from Wharf Street to 1 Brooklyn Road were changed due to the RMS funding of part 1a. What the plans are for 1b now. I understand we didn't get funding for the 2013/14 financial year but what about the next year? Should we start discussing this with Matt Kean and the Council? What other funding opportunities are there? We don't want to see this being pushed back another year and really want to get the second part finished.

A. *Council will continue to apply for funding grants from RMS or any other source that may be appropriate. The project has been broken into small stages in recognition of the fact that available grants are relatively modest and no one funding source is likely to pay for the whole route in one year. By all means let the Local Member and Councillors know how much local residents value the work that has been done to date, and are keen to see more. Stage 1b will continue the existing path from Ferry Lane (where Stage 1a finishes) to house number 43.*

4. Why was the guardrail put up at the start of Brooklyn road near Pacific Highway? There is a concern that there is no room for error now and we have had a few buses over the white line and then the car on the other side of the road has no where to go. We just want to know the thinking behind this so we can explain - I think it is slowing people down but then we have the issue of the narrow road.

A. *This was identified as a Blackspot under the Federal government's funding criteria due to the number of "run off road" crashes. The guardrail treatment was selected after analysis using data provided by the funding body, which draws on the performance history of similar works installed to treat similar crash problems. Constraining the road environment is a proven method used to reduce average vehicle speeds.*

5. Do you have any update on Kangaroo Point and parking?

A. *Council has adopted the Local Traffic committee recommendation to apply 2P parking restrictions to the upper car park only which will be installed when the park upgrade works are completed.*
