

Gateway

Newsletter of the Brooklyn Community Association, Inc

June 2014

President's Report

Make your opinions heard by Hornsby Council on the Brooklyn Master Plan

We look forward to welcoming residents, business people and community association representatives to the Brooklyn Community Association General Meeting on Saturday 21 June, to focus on the Hornsby Council's proposed Brooklyn Master Plan.

Deputy Mayor Nathan Tilbury has accepted the Association's invitation to attend the General Meeting, together with A Ward Councillors Mick Gallagher and Antony Anisse. Councillors will provide a brief outline of their understanding of the approach to the Master Plan and will answer questions from meeting participants.

Some key issues for Brooklyn that need to be addressed in the Master Plan include:

- Parking, removing parking as the dominant feature of the town centre, while providing better services for visitors, commuters, and town and river residents
- Creating a new and welcoming town centre
- Making better use of foreshore land and waterways access
- Improving community facilities
- Increasing Brooklyn road and pedestrian safety
- Planning for population growth, both in Brooklyn and potentially Peat Island
- Reducing the risk of inappropriate development

We believe that the best outcome for Brooklyn from the Master Plan will result from comprehensive participation by all facets of the population. Accordingly, we have invited more than 20 community groups to attend the meeting. Only through a strong coalition of community groups can we ensure that the Master Plan addresses all our requirements today and into the future.

Robert Arnold, President Brooklyn Community Association,
email: president@brooklyncommunity.org.au, mobile: 0418 404 902.

**Brooklyn Community Association General Meeting
to be held Saturday, 21st June, 10am - noon, Brooklyn Meeting Room**

*Key Subject: The Brooklyn Master Plan
Guest Speaker: Deputy Mayor Nathan Tilbury, Hornsby Council*

Meeting Schedule 2014

Saturday 16 August, Saturday 11 October, Saturday 6 December (AGM)

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 has 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 meetings or make a direct deposit to the BCA at the Bendigo Bank Berowra **BSB: 633-000 Account: 12935718.**

Written by members and friends of the Brooklyn Community Association Inc, PO Box 239, Brooklyn, NSW 2083.
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125th Anniversary Commemorative Event on Dangar Island



The Dangar Island Historical Society led the celebration on Dangar Island of the 125th anniversary of the opening ceremony of the Hawkesbury River Railway Bridge over the weekend of May 3rd and 4th 2014.

The Governor, Marie Bashir, MP Matt Kean, Hornsby Mayor Steve Russell and other dignitaries viewed an exhibition of the story of the bridge, photographs of the construction, and the life and times of the engineers working on the project. The event attracted a big crowd of locals and visitors throughout the weekend, who visited the exhibition and cruised the river.

Mr Kean said "We boarded the historic Banksia Ferry, driven by my friend Rick Stockley, and travelled to Dangar Island, which was the home of construction workers building the Hawkesbury River Bridge. When we arrived on Dangar Island we were given a special guided tour of the bridge exhibition and taken to the island's community hall, which was built by the same bridge construction workers. I applaud the efforts of Peter Wolfe and David Reynolds who helped organise a fantastic day enjoyed by everyone who attended the Dangar Island ceremony.... They have done a great service not only for the community of Hornsby but also for the entire community of New South Wales to ensure that the legacy of Sir Henry Parkes and our early pioneers will not be forgotten".

Thanks to Matt Kean MP for the text and picture in this article. The Brooklyn Community Association would like to congratulate Matt on his elevation to the position of Parliamentary Secretary for Communities, and the BCA will continue our good relationship with Matt in his new role.

Muogamarra Nature Reserve



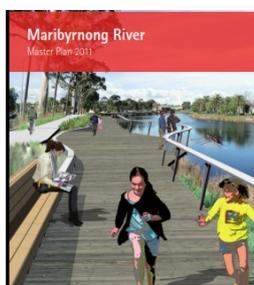
A bushfire hazard reduction exercise took place in the Muogamarra Nature Reserve on 29th May. This was conducted in an area that hasn't burnt since 1994. National Parks reported that the intention was to burn the ridge tops and let the fire creep down into the valleys before it self-extinguished in the wetter gullies. The fires extended from the M1 west to behind the river community of Milsons Passage.

Muogamarra Opening Dates - 2014

For people interested in the results of the hazard reduction and the likely spectacular growth after the fire, Muogamarra will be open again this year for 6 weekends from 16th August until the 21st September.

The Brooklyn Master Plan – Logo Competition

The Brooklyn Community Association invites local artists and designers to develop a logo for the Brooklyn Master Plan. This competition is not (yet) authorised by Hornsby Council, but let's create a logo to illustrate the spirit and goals of the Master Plan.



Submit your entries by email by July 15 to president@brooklyncommunity.org.au.

Finalist entries will be recognised in the next Gateway newsletter, and the BCA will submit the winning design to the Council, which hopefully will feature on the Master Plan itself. Sponsors for the competition are being sought and a prize may be awarded.

125th Anniversary Commemorative Event in Brooklyn

May 1st marked the 125th anniversary of the opening ceremony of the original Hawkesbury River Railway Bridge, which was constructed on Dangar Island.

A commemorative event was held at McKell Park on Saturday May 3rd 2014, when Labour Leader Tom Richmond, ably assisted by Comrade Bob Davis, rallied the crowd with a rousing speech for the 8 hour day, and led the march into the town.

The event was followed by coffee and cakes and an exhibition of historical photographs and art works at Redfish café.



Come Along - Gardening Day Kangaroo Point - July 12

The Brooklyn Community Association is teaming up with Hornsby Council to perform additional landscaping in the Kangaroo Point area. Hornsby Council has done a great job in landscaping the area near the new Estuary Restaurant. The Community Association plans to landscape the area to the south-west of the Estuary Restaurant. Deputy Mayor Nathan Tilbury has indicated he will attend.

The Brooklyn Community Association invites volunteers and gardeners from the Brooklyn area to a Gardening Day on Saturday July 12. Commence at 9:30am and finish by 4pm. Sausage sizzle provided by the Estuary Restaurant for lunch. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Jobs we plan to do: remove weeds and undergrowth, trim lower branches on the larger trees, plant small native bushes and grasses in garden beds, rebuild the original stone walls and edges (retaining the heritage layout and nature) and cover the garden area with mulch.



Equipment to bring: Gloves and sturdy working shoes or boots. Warm clothing and a raincoat if wet, sunglasses and sunscreen if sunny, spade, fork or hard rake if you plan to garden, clippers and garden saw if you plan to trim bushes and trees, and a spade, crowbar, sledgehammer if you plan to help with the stone walls. We will have available: trailer to remove rubbish, electric cables and some electric tools. Hornsby Council will provide native plants, bushes and mulch. They also have a store of sandstone on site if we need additional supplies. To register for the day or for more information, call Karen Arnold on 0418 494 902 or email president@brooklyncommunity.org.au.

Departs 10am daily
Includes Morning Tea
& Ploughman's Lunch
Bookings essential,
pay on the day



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The Ground of all being is Consciousness

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Yoga with Weights Monday 6.30-8pm

Brooklyn Community Hall, Brooklyn

Ring Jo to book

Mobile 0414240342

Old Guide Hall recommended for Demolition

A concerned group of parents rallied together with various community organisations including the BCA, RSL, and Playgroup, to inform Brooklyn and the community of Council's recommendation to demolish the Old Guide Hall and move the Pre-School to Cowan. In less than a week, petitions were out for signing and community members began emailing their concerns to our local Ward A Councillors. Deputy Mayor Tilbury was very quick to respond and held an impromptu meeting at the Hall to hear community concerns. He followed up with a visit to Brooklyn over the long weekend with fellow Ward A Councillors Mick Gallagher and Antony Annise to gauge opinions of the broader community.



This issue went to the Hornsby Shire Council meeting on Wednesday 11th June. The community was well represented by a group of 10 speakers who eloquently expressed the community's needs for a safe child friendly space for pre-schoolers to be educated, playgroup to run and for the community to hire for various social occasions and meeting. The importance of keeping services and infrastructure local was highlighted. Speakers requested Council to repair the building and NOT demolish it for the same cost. An amended recommendation to Council was passed which led to a deferment of the issue for 2 months.

The united community support is a credit to all who assisted in the hastily organised action to save the Hall. There is still much to be done; the petition will be kept afloat and an email group and facebook page are being established so that information can be disseminated. To be updated on the progress of the action or to use the hall to hire please email Kate Glenn at katelameyglenn@gmail.com.

Estuary Restaurant - Opens late July 2014

For many years, people travelling on the old Pacific Highway stopped at the kiosk on Kangaroo Point for refreshment and to enjoy the superb views. The kiosk operated in various shapes and sizes until the motorway was opened, passing trade disappeared and it sat neglected for nearly 30 years. Now a magnificent new restaurant, capitalising on the location, is nearly completion and local Brooklyn residents Suellen Warton and Roscoe Martin will be opening the doors in late July. We all have been watching the progress of the building of the new restaurant, and soon we will be able to have a wonderful meal there and enjoy the panoramic views.



The restaurant will be open for lunch and dinners from Wednesday through Sunday, with the take-away window open seven days a week. The menu at Estuary Restaurant will be seafood, focussed on showcasing the "catch" of the Hawkesbury River. The bar area includes a large iced seafood display where a chef will be plating fresh oysters, crab, and prawns. They will also provide a la carte breakfast on the weekends in the restaurant. The fish and chip window will service the surrounding park and will be open early for breakfast seven days a week for the travelling "tradies". And for coffee lovers, Estuary has partnered with Campos to supply great cups of coffee. There is a wedding and function facility on the ground level ready to be booked.

Suellen said "In my opinion it is the best site in the state if not Australia and we feel a huge responsibility to make it a special destination and to showcase local seafood."