

# Gateway

Newsletter of the Brooklyn Community Association, Inc

July 2015

## President's Report

Work by Hornsby Council continues apace within Brooklyn. I remember someone in Council (someone important I think) said Council spends more per capita in Brooklyn than the rest of the shire.

The new playground attracts children (and some adults) to enjoy the swings and the train on a sunny day. Brooklyn Oval facilities upgrade and boardwalk improvements are finished. The shared footpath and Brooklyn Road improvements continue near the old convent, Cole Street widening and culvert repair is nearing completion. The Parsley Bay Boat Ramp Upgrade is planned for later in the year. All great work.

We think the Brooklyn Master Plan is still going to happen. After the results of the survey were approved in March 2015, the Council resolved that the project brief (to define the scope of the Master Plan) be reported back to Council by August 2015. Despite the community's and the Community Association's pleas for participation in planning for the Master Plan, it's happening behind closed doors.

Communication, consultation and *participation* remain a problem for the Council. Individual Ward Councillors keep us informed from time to time. But we want the Council to see that getting the community involved will give a better result all round, for both the community and the Council.

Meanwhile, issues that need the Master plan to be completed continue to surface:

- A DA consultant's report recommending that parking for an additional 50 cars can be easily found around the School and Brooklyn Park.
- Plans resurrected to merge the Community Centres in Dangar Road.
- Rumours of changed use of Lower McKell Park at the end of Dangar Road.

The BCA would like to acknowledge with regret the passing of "Westy", one of the most popular characters in Brooklyn's homeless community, and well-liked by many in the village.

BCA Members, and Brooklyn and River residents and friends are welcome to join us for the Brooklyn Community Association General Meeting on 11 July 2015. The BCA needs Committee members. If Members are interested, let us know at the meeting.

*Robert Arnold, President* [president@brooklyncommunity.org.au](mailto:president@brooklyncommunity.org.au)

### Brooklyn Community Association General Meeting

Baden Powell Hall

(3 Baden Powell Ave, Brooklyn)

Saturday, 11th July, 10am to 12noon

### General Meeting Dates for 2015

All meetings for 2015 will be held in the Baden Powell Community Hall, commencing at 10am.

**Saturdays 10am-12noon: 22 August,  
17 October, 5 December (AGM)**

## Hornsby Council News Update

A short report, as I have been overseas this month. Activities underway:

- Brooklyn Oval Playground Upgrade: Completed and operational.
- Brooklyn Oval Picnic Facilities: Completed and operational.
- Brooklyn Oval Boardwalk: Cleaned & repaired with new paths.
- Road Works - Brooklyn Road Shared Footpath: The Stage 3 extension of the road works and shared footpath well underway, and scheduled to be completed in October 2015.
- Road Works - Cole St: Widening of the road completed. Culvert works continue.
- Parsley Bay Boat Ramp Upgrade: Recommendation to be put to the August General Meeting of Council. Construction is likely to be planned for Oct/Nov 2015 or Feb/March/April 2016.

Residents are very welcome to contact me by email or phone with questions or Council issues I may be able to help with.

*Nathan Tilbury, Ward A Councillor, Hornsby Council, [ntilbury@hornsby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ntilbury@hornsby.nsw.gov.au) 0408 644 289*



# MARINE RESCUE NSW

Marine Rescue Hawkesbury is the on-water emergency resource serving the boating and residential community of the lower Hawkesbury River from Spencer to Patonga and Brooklyn to Berowra Waters. It is one of 45 units of Marine Rescue NSW, the state's official volunteer emergency marine rescue service.

The Hawkesbury Unit is located in the grounds of the Mooney Mooney Club, and provides a 24/7 resource for boating or water-access residential emergencies. Our 68 volunteer members work a rotation of four on-base watches on weekends and public holidays with stand-by crews able to be on the water within 30 minutes at all other times.

Marine Rescue Hawkesbury operates two fast response rescue vessels accredited with the State Rescue Board. Both are of rugged aluminium construction ideally suited to river conditions. With an investment of \$324,000 since 2014 in its new and refurbished vessels, Marine Rescue Hawkesbury is well-equipped to deliver speedy emergency response and boating safety services to its community.

Other services provided for the public include:

- Marine radio communication and Log On safety watch for recreational boaters
- Boating education for boat drivers licences
- Outreach education programs for young adult boat licences
- The annual Hawkesbury Canoe Classic
- Liaison with NSW Ambulance for on-water transport for medical emergencies
- Community engagement with school and youth groups to deliver boating safety presentations
- Participation in Local and District Emergency Management Organisation planning.

As part of Marine Rescue NSW, the Hawkesbury unit has funding support from the NSW government through a small contribution from boat licence and boat registration fees. Only about half of the total necessary costs are met for providing a modern, high standard of marine emergency response service. Marine Rescue Hawkesbury, like all our colleagues, needs to raise funds for fuel, maintenance and other operating costs. Our fundraising includes modest charges for education programs; traditional fundraising activities such as raffles; applications for grants at all levels of government; active pursuit of sponsors and recognition of their support. We also encourage those we assist on the water to give a donation.

You can contact Marine Rescue Hawkesbury on:

- Emergency: Phone 000
- Radio: Channel 16 on VHF (distress and calling channel) or Channel 88 on a 27 MHz radio
- Phone: 02 9985 9012 or 0419 223 097

The new Marine Rescue App is making it easier than ever to connect directly to Marine Rescue NSW. The App is a great addition to your marine radio and EPIRB in your safety toolkit, to:

- Track your journey so we know where to start looking in an emergency.
- A safety checklist for before you head out
- Local tide, weather and sea conditions
- Your latitude/longitude position coordinates
- Boat ramp locations and popular fishing spots
- Emergency call procedures.

## MarineRescue App



**Unit Commander Merv Collins** [marinerescuensw.com.au](http://marinerescuensw.com.au)



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## Dr Ross McPherson and Dr Ed Blakely

Dr Ross McPherson, Chief Scientific Officer, Hornsby Shire Council, was guest speaker at the last BCA Meeting on May 2, 2015 and gave an entertaining, knowledgeable and informative presentation about the EPA White Paper on Sydney Water Corporation Licence renewal and water quality impacts in the Hawkesbury River estuary from the STP. He described new technologies and reuse to minimise or “eliminate environmental impacts on the environment”, enthused Dr McPherson. The outcome of the presentation was that Councillor Nathan Tilbury and Dr McPherson would prepare a submission to the EPA for onsite reuse of sewerage at the SWC Facilities, Brooklyn. This initiative was warmly welcomed by the all present at the meeting.

Dr McPherson spoke about advances with technologies that could ensure little or no impact on the environment. He referred to minimal discharges at Magnetic Island and that these could easily be achieved here. Dr McPherson also identified the need for additional monitoring sites: halfway between Milson Island and the Road Bridge, Dangar Island and the road Bridge and an additional site at Bradleys Beach, Dangar Island. Dr McPherson’s presentation although technical was studded with humour and anecdotes of interest. The Presentation was applauded by all and we’re sure he invited back to speak in the not distant future.

Dr Ed Blakely was a guest at the BCA Meeting accompanying Hornsby Councillors Antony Annise, Nathan Tilbury and Mick Gallagher. Dr Blakely is currently the Professor of Urban Policy at the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney.

Recently, Hornsby Council took part in the 2015 Future Cities Program which examined and analysed sustainable urban design and planning principles in successful cities in the United States. As part of the Future Cities Program, Dr Blakely is assisting Council implement the key principles used in successful cities in the strategic planning and sustainable development of the Hornsby Shire.

Dr Ed Blakely has over 40 years of international experience in all aspects of urban and regional planning, disaster management and sustainable development. Until 2009 he headed the recovery of the City of New Orleans. In this role he coordinated all aspects of municipal government from planning and financing to construction of major infrastructure related to the recovery of the City from the worst modern urban disaster in the United States.

Dr Blakely has been directly involved in projects ranging from rural and small town planning to major regional plans for metropolitan area such as Los Angeles, Oakland, San Francisco, California, New Orleans, LA, Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne. He has also advised metropolitan planning in China, France, Vietnam and Indonesia.

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Dr Ross McPherson, Councillor Anthony Annise,  
Dr Ed Blakey, Di Bowles & Peter Davis

## Letter to the Editor

### Our Footpath experience.

Ever since we moved to Brooklyn we have been advocates of a foot path. We were absolutely over the moon to find out that we were recipients in this current round of works. We had looked at the plans held by Council, this really didn't enlighten us, as these were engineering drawings. We presumed Council would inform us of the impact and so opted to just let them get on with it. How wrong we were...

It took 2 events to stir us into action.

- A star picket was concreted outside our car gates (so we could not get our car out of our property). We were home at the time yet there was ZERO consultation.
- A workman knocked at the door and said something along the lines of “we are digging up outside your gates now and laying concrete tomorrow and you will have no car access for 4 days”.

I contacted the Council by phone to stop the works and sent an email requesting a meeting and explanation as to what was going on. We had the benefit of an on-site meeting, and the explanation offered by the Council representatives at the meeting was good. With consultation it seems that Council will offer explanation and choice. Additionally they will provide reasonable notice of works however, it seems that it only happens if one demands it. So we wait with fingers crossed that the end result is as discussed and agreed at that meeting. We hope that Council recognises that a level of personal consultation is a necessity rather than only for the squeaky wheels like us. You have a RIGHT to know what is going on.

Jennie Sparke, Brooklyn Rd Brooklyn

(Abbreviated by the editor)



# Muogamarra Nature Reserve



*Carpenter bee on Boronia*  
by John Hocking

Once again it's that time of year, Muogamarra Nature Reserve will be open to the public. The Reserve is open for just six weekends a year to protect its fragile ecosystems and Aboriginal heritage. From 15th August to 20th September, the public can visit the reserve as the spring transformation begins and wildflowers put on a spectacular display.

Already wildflowers are blooming with the Sydney Boronia (*Boronia ledifolia*) making a vivid display of hot pink.

Muogamarra is home to many native animals like the iconic echidna, and for birdwatchers there is plenty of birdlife to see. Look up to catch a glimpse of a wedge-tail eagle or a whistling kite and keep an eye ahead for a lyrebird. Muogamarra offers spectacular views of the Hawkesbury River and Central Coast all the way out to the west. On a clear day you can see to the Blue Mountains.



**Muogamarra is an extraordinary natural treasure that offers some of the best views in Sydney and the public have just 12 chances a year to take it in.**

Opening times are from 9.00am until 4.00pm Saturday and Sunday only. Enter from the old Pacific Highway, across from Pie in the Sky.

Guided walks are available. Bookings and pre-payment required. Phone 1300 072 757

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community and tourists alike"*

## Become a Member of the Brooklyn Community Association

The BCA invites Brooklyn 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 meeting on May 2nd or make a direct deposit to the BCA at the Bendigo Bank Berowra **BSB: 633-000 Account: 129357182**

Written by members and friends of the BCA Inc, PO Box 239, Brooklyn, NSW 2083.

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