

Gateway

Newsletter of the Brooklyn Community Association, Inc

May 2016

President's Report for May

Brooklyn Masterplan, Peat Island redevelopment, Council Amalgamation...it is very difficult to stay informed and up to date on all that is happening around the Brooklyn area and in the shire. As representatives from the Brooklyn Community, we try very hard to get information from all stakeholders on the issues but it is not an easy task. It takes an inordinate amount of time to find with many agencies and people to contact, so sometimes we don't have the latest information.

Recently local community organisation representatives met with State member Matt Kean and a representative from Government Property regarding Peat Island. The Department of Planning is still assessing the proposal for Peat Island, stating that they need more information on areas such *"as the riparian zones, flooding and heritage. The Department of Government Property have engaged an expanded consultant team to look at the constraints to the development of Peat Island. The objective for the development has been changed to (not exact words) "not to make lots of money but it can't be a loss leader. It will have to be able to generate enough income to allow for public space and access."* We felt that this was a positive change from the plan that was put forth with 450 new homes/apartments. The representative mentioned that we might consider the process that is being carried out for the Bays district and the White Bay power station. Go to the link below to see some of the "big Ideas"

<https://thebayssydney.com.au/tcall-for-great-ideas-2/>

So what ideas do we have for Peat Island?

One of our main areas of concern for the BCA continues to be the preservation of foreshore area for the public. Currently there is a large block of land for sale that is the Long Island and Wharf Street Marinas. According to the advertisement, the site boasts 118 marina berths, 50-plus moorings and two slipways and an additional nine freehold properties. Wharf Street Reserve, at the end of Wharf Street, is in the middle of this. Historically, locals used the area access the water, put in small boats and kayaks. Signage indicating the reserve status and the park bench where locals once sat was removed over time and the area was integrated into the Marina car parking. The good news is that the sale has prompted the Council to act and retain the reserve. Council will be installing a bench seat and park sign. Thanks to the Council for rectifying this long standing issue.

Brooklyn Master Plan: see Brooklyn Report on Page 3 for latest news For more information go to:

http://businesspapers.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/Open/2016/04/GM_13042016_AGN.PDF

Remember to like our Brooklyn Masterplan Facebook page for up to date information.

<https://www.facebook.com/BCAMasterplan>

We continue to fight for the public's right to access the beautiful foreshore. Will you join us?

**Next Meeting—Brooklyn Community Association 2016
Saturday, 28th May, Community Meeting Room, 10am-12pm**

Councillor Nathan Tilbury

A Ward Councillor Nathan Tilbury will attend the meeting and will provide further information and answer questions on the Council Amalgamation and Brooklyn Master Plan.

Representatives of the Hornsby Action Group will also be in attendance at the BCA meeting on May 28th.

From Little Things Big Things Grow-Brooklyn Public School Tree

Kev Carmordy's iconic tribute to Vincent Lingiari and the struggle for land rights: "From Little Things Big Things Grow" could understandably replace the current Brooklyn Public school anthem of "Small School by the Water".

In a show of unanimous solidarity, (too infrequently experienced across the village) that included desperate letters to the Principal and a vigorous social media campaign, the 112 year old Camphor Laurel tree that graces the school playground was spared the axe.

The tree's execution was stayed in the eleventh hour. The collective sigh of relief emanating from recently distraught children echoed along the river to the minds and thoughts of the relieved, "long-time-local" elderly. They too had known this tree from their childhoods, sought its shelter for play, solitude and a place to dream. Generations of locals had laughed, hidden and found, chased and caught each other under its branches.

The children's gratitude was accompanied by their warm embraces of its gnarled and ancient trunk. The simple pleasure of un-self-consciously loving a tree is too soon forgotten by the cynical adult world and their derisive accusations of any protector of nature being a "tree hugger".

It was perhaps ironic that in the proceeding weeks at the ANZAC day memorial dignitaries from all levels of government (including Ruddock and Keen) gathered like moths to a flame under the grand old tree seeking physical relief from the sun under its shade. Unbeknown to these "men- in- suits" they too were being pulled subconsciously by the deep, timeless and psychological necessity of being in nature. That same need that when met by the dappled light of sunshine through leaves brings smiles to children's faces.

It may be that as important as saving this lone tree is, the significant "victory" has been in the opportunity for these school children to experience: having a voice to be heard, feeling empowered, winning "against city hall" and living as active community participants rather than fatalistic spectators.

mmm...Can we lower the age for membership into the BCA?

http://www.nationalregisterofbigtrees.com.au/listing_view.php?listing_id=638



The screenshot shows the website for the National Register of Big Trees, Australia's Champion Trees. The page features a navigation menu on the left and a main content area titled "TREE DETAILS".

National Register of Big Trees
Australia's Champion Trees

TREE DETAILS

Common Name : Camphor Laurel
Scientific Name : Cinnamomum camphora
Circumference : 7.00 metres (275 inches)
Height : 26.00 metres (85 feet)
Crown : 30.00 metres (98 feet)

Points : 385

State : NSW
Town : Sydney, Brooklyn

Location : Brooklyn Public School
Coordinates : 33 32 53.82 S 151 12 53.76 E
Click to view in maps

[Click to Enlarge]

Brooklyn Report (President Di Bowles is overseas this issue)

Council Amalgamation

In January 2016, the Government appointed a “Delegate” to examine a proposal to merge Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai Councils. After consideration of submissions from Councils, members of the public and community groups, the Delegate has recommended that the proposal to merge the Council should proceed.

The Delegate’s report said that submissions clearly indicate that residents have expressed a majority view of opposition to the merger. Ku-ring-gai Council has expressed a view on behalf of its residents that they are opposed to the merger proposal. Hornsby Council on the other hand has demonstrated it is supportive of local government reform.

The Delegate noted that the population of the area affected is approximated at 270,060. A total of 1113 submissions were received. This represents a return rate of 0.41%. Allowing for the expressed position that some of those submissions are from organisations representing some hundreds of residents, the participation rate remains very low. Despite the overwhelming majority of submissions expressing opposition to the proposal, under the circumstances, the Delegate believes the submissions to be only marginally representative of the general opinions of the residents.

The Delegate recommended that the new Council (with a name yet to be chosen) will have 15 Councillors, including a Mayor elected by the Councillors and 5 wards of 3 Councillors. An Administrator and an interim General Manager will appointed in the near future, ahead of council elections on 9 September 2017. The BCA understands that a Committee of prior Councillors from both areas will be nominated during this transition period.

The Delegate noted one substantial submission was received from the Brooklyn community advocating that mechanisms will be needed to ensure improved representation and consultation with a level of decision making authority at the local level. This submission also proposed the boundaries be reviewed to enable all Lower Hawkesbury River Communities to reside in the Hornsby Shire. It was significant that the Delegate recommended that the new Council should “enter into discussion with its northern local neighbour(s) with a view to reviewing the boundaries to improve representation and consultation for the Lower Hawkesbury River Communities”.

Brooklyn Master Plan

The Brooklyn Master Plan moves on. At the May 11 meeting of Council, the following recommendations were accepted by Council:

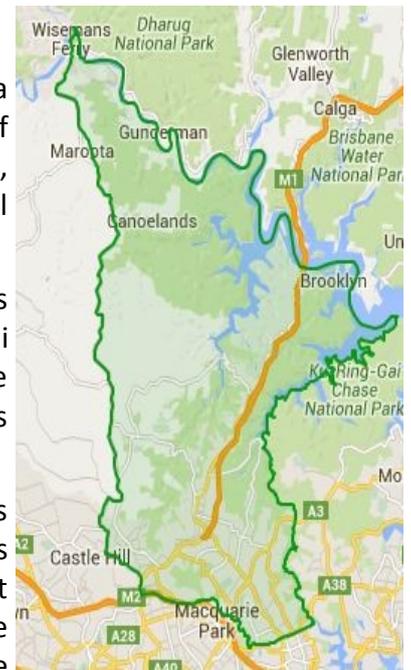
- Council accept the tender from McGregor Coxall for the Brooklyn Improvement Master Plan.
- Council renew its subscription to the Future Cities Collaborative to January 2017 (to enable Professor Ed Blakely to continue to participate on the Project Control Group for the Brooklyn Master Plan project).
- Members of the Brooklyn Master Plan Community Reference Group and Agency Reference group be advised of Council’s resolution.

Council officers advised that sufficient funds are available from the Strategic Planning Budget to fund the Brooklyn Improvement Master Plan over the 2015/16 and 2016/17 financial years.

Parsley Bay Boat Ramp Upgrade

The Parsley Bay boat ramp upgrade is due to begin 30th May with completion scheduled for September 2016. The proposed works are to replace the existing ramp with one that complies to NSW Boating Ramp Facility Guidelines and build a new pontoon. For more information visit:

<http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/council/noticeboard/latest-news/parsley-bay-boat-ramp>



River Reasons Winter Festival

Bringing McKell Park, Brooklyn to life 'River Reasons', a new festival concept for the Hawkesbury River will run on a quarterly basis welcoming each approaching season. The inaugural festival 'River Reasons – Winter Festival' launches on Saturday 28th May 2016.

The festival is a celebration of all the wonderfully talented artists, retailers and producers the Hawkesbury & surrounds have to offer. A showcase of river inspired food, clothing, artwork, wine and more – with a seasonal twist!

Set amidst a backdrop of McKell Park's long reaching, tree-lined foreshore - the festival site is rich with history, atmosphere and salty air. River Reasons aims to create an atmospheric cultural hub, bringing together the unique treasures of the Hawkesbury.



What can you expect at River Reasons?

- Free jumping castle for the kids
- Seasonally themed face painting
- Live music and performance pieces
- Champagne and Hawkesbury River Oyster bar
- An interactive seasonal garden - *after all, a Winter Festival would not be complete without snow & a snowman!*

The festival is not to be missed and offers a little piece of seasonal magic for everyone. For more information visit: www.facebook.com/riverreasons

There are still a few stall sites available - if you would like to be involved and exhibit your works please contact the Festival Director: me@collinscreative.com.au or caeliawho@live.com

Muogamarra Nature Reserve

Advance opening dates for your calendar:

13 August - 18 September 2016.

Check the National Parks website for guided walks during the season.



Departs 10am daily
Includes Morning Tea
& Ploughman's Lunch



Bookings essential, pay on the day

THE RIVERBOAT POSTMAN

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Tel: 02 9985 9900 Boat: 0400 600 111

Angler's Rest Hotel

Ph: 02 99857257 Fax 02 99857019

Email: anglersresthotel@exemail.com.au

Tab, Keno & Gaming
Courtesy Bus & Accommodation
Bistro, Beer Garden & Jam Nights



*"country style hospitality for
the local community and tourists alike"*

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