

Gateway

Newsletter of the Brooklyn Community Association, Inc

August 2016

In this Gateway we report on important developments in the Brooklyn Masterplan process and also provide updates on changes to the Commercial Fishing industry that affects families in our community. Our wonderful local artists will be exhibiting at the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery, Wahroonga between 11-29th October, put the date in your calendar! And, are you on our mailing list? If you like being kept up to date on local news, send us your email so we can keep you informed between Gateways.

President's Report for August

The Brooklyn Masterplan is underway.

The consultants have been selected and have started the preparatory work. The first Brooklyn Community Reference Group will be held on the August 17th.

The consultancy chosen for the Masterplan is McGregor Coxall. According to their website, they are a multi-disciplinary design firm, founded by CEO Adrian McGregor in 1998 with Philip Coxall joining in 2000. The two studied landscape architecture together at the University of Canberra in the mid 1980's (with our own Peter Davis!). Their services cross the traditional boundaries of urbanism, landscape, culture, planning and ecosystem sciences in a culture driven by innovation. Primacy is given to design excellence throughout the entire organisation and is managed by the design group.

We liked that they and *People Place and Partnership* won an award for their Byron Bay Town Centre Masterplan for their work with the community. We look forward to hearing about their engagement strategy for Brooklyn and working with them. If you want to see more about them go to their website at <http://mcgregorcoxall.com/philosophy/>. Would you like to hear about the Bryon Masterplan? You can hear from the designer here; <https://soundcloud.com/bayfm/masterplan-part-3-return-of-the-designer>

Your call to action!!

You will be asked to get involved and share your opinions. What do you want to see for Brooklyn's future? What would you like to remain the same and what would you like changed? What sort of development, if any, would you like? We know one of our biggest issues is parking and access to a railway lift but think beyond that. Would you like more tourism? What sort of town centre do you envision? Do you have any towns/villages that you would like to adopt some of the looks/features for Brooklyn? Or do you want to keep everything the same?

We will be out on the streets asking you for your thoughts. Also, if you could take the time, email us with your ideas at info@brooklyncommunity.org.au we would greatly appreciate receiving as many emails as possible! You can also keep up to date at: <https://www.facebook.com/BCAMasterplan>

We need your videos!

Another way to be involved is by telling us "Why you live in Brooklyn?" The BCA would like to capture the faces and stories of our town on video sharing with us why you live here. We want to hear the voices of the young and old, new residents and long time residents of why you choose to live here. Please email us at info@brooklyncommunity.org.au, drop into the meeting to make a video or send in your response.

So in summary, the Masterplan is here, please get involved. Come to workshops and meetings, give us your feedback and make a video on why you live in Brooklyn. We would like our community to be well represented. We want to hear from you!

**Next Meeting—Brooklyn Community Association 2016
Saturday, 20th August, Community Meeting Room, 10am-12pm**

Muogamarra Nature Reserve

OPEN NOW

Muogamarra Nature Reserve is an extraordinary place, and it's easy to see why. It's open around spring time for just 6 weekends a year to preserve the fragile ecosystems and Aboriginal heritage, transforming into a brilliant display of colour when spring wildflowers come into bloom. In 2016, the reserve will be open each Saturday and Sunday from 13 August to Sunday 18 September.

Aug-		Sep-	
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When you visit Muogamarra, you'll see majestic angophoras, old-man banksias, pink boronias and delicate native orchids. The reserve is also home to many native animals like the iconic echidna, and for birdwatchers there's plenty of birdlife to see. Look up to catch a glimpse of a soaring wedge-tail eagle or keep an eye ahead for a lyrebird.

Discovery tours

Visit Muogamarra on a Discovery tour with one of our trained volunteer guides. If you only have a few hours, take a stroll on the Bird Gully walk or the Lloyd Trig walk and enjoy panoramic views and amazing birdwatching. Or, if you have the time to spare, spend the day walking along historic convict roadworks on the Peats Bight walk. For the more adventurous there is a Muogamarra shoreline paddle in a double kayak. Discovery tours are very popular, so early bookings are recommended.



Self-guided walks

If you'd prefer to take things at your own pace, simply pack a picnic and a pair of binoculars and take in spectacular views on a self-guided walk. There are several walks available, ranging from short trails, like the J D Tipper loop, to challenging six-hour adventures like the Peats Crater walk. Take the Point Loop trail for an easy stroll amongst the wildflowers, or follow the old convict roads on the Lloyd Trig and Deerubbin Lookover walks.

If you're interested in taking a self-guided walk, phone Kalkari Discovery Centre 9472 9300 to get more information on walking track options.

Brooklyn Residents Letters to the BCA

If you've missed the opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas during a BCA meeting you can still assist in our submission to the Community Reference Group by emailing info@brooklyncommunity.org.au Carolyn Farbrother has taken the opportunity to introduce her family and writes:

" When we looked at Brooklyn as a home we were attracted by the laid back feel of the area and the proximity to the river."

Carolyn, husband John and their elderly dog enjoy the walk way along Brooklyn Road and have some great ideas for making the village more welcoming to visitors and locals alike.

Thank You Carolyn. Your ""wish list makes a valuable addition to the views we have collected. We will keep an eye out for the blue pram!

Hawkesbury River Fishermen face uncertain future.

Brooklyn's fishing industry has deep roots in the community. Many of the local fishermen are third generation operators, and the Brooklyn Fishermens CoOp is a longstanding fixture in town. In recent years some of the older locals have retired, but have been replaced by boats from the polluted Sydney Harbour fishery. While Brooklyn's fishers have continued to supply Sydney markets with a steady supply of healthy seafood, there is a regulatory storm brewing up.

Professional fishermen in the Hawkesbury are mostly single handed operators with one or two small boats. Many fishermen catch prawns or squid from motorised trawlers of about 10 metres length. Small "tinnies" are used to set nets and traps to catch fish and crabs. Much of catch consists of prawns, squid and Mullet, which are readily caught by the nets, but not on the lines and hooks of recreational fishermen.

The number of fishermen in NSW has declined substantially over the last 20 years, but there is no doubt that the Hawkesbury fishery is stable and sustainable. The NSW department of primary industry has nevertheless released a range of changes to the licencing of professional fishermen in NSW. These will impact on all the fishing businesses in Brooklyn and the Hawkesbury, with the intention that the industry will further shrink.

Under the changes all fishermen are required to hold more industry "shares" to continue operating. The shares have to be bought from someone who exits the industry. The cost can be high and it doesn't help the fisherman to catch any extra. Licences for boats and nets that fishermen were previously required to purchase have been abolished without compensation. Some operators will be restricted to working 64 days per year, while some licencees face catch quotas that will limit income to less than \$10,000 per year.

Brooklyn's fishermen are distressed by the Department's changes. The government does recognise the significance of the impacts, and is offering a small grant for financial advice, retraining grants for those who do leave and grants to help co-operatives plan for a precarious future. The assistance is not geared to helping small fishermen to keep fishing, and there may be unspecified further changes in 2019, which makes planning for the future impossible.

It is expected that a number of fishers will retire or exit the industry, while the remainder will be unable to expand their catch to make up the difference. Brooklyn's fisherman's CoOp and other seafood businesses which specialise in local produce face an unstable supply as fishermen limit their activity in line with the scant quotas. Around 85% of the seafood consumed in NSW is imported - a percentage can only rise. NSW consumers will share the industry's pain by paying more for the reduced local supply.

So what can we do to help our local fishing industry?

We can eat local produce -around 85% of the seafood consumed in NSW is imported! You can contact your local representative to discuss your concerns. And don't forget to come down to Brooklyn for some fish and chips or to buy your own fish and prawns to cook at home from the Brooklyn Fisherman's Coop.

Brooklyn Community Association Notifications

The Brooklyn Community Association publishes articles interesting to members, residents and friends in Brooklyn and river communities, and from time to time we forward notifications from Council, community and local interest groups.

The BCA has 3 methods of contact:

1. The **Gateway newsletter**, published 4 times per year and distributed to mailboxes in Brooklyn, Dangar Island and some other river communities. Usually, 600 copies are printed, so most people should receive a copy.
2. The **BCA contact list**, with notifications sent by email to about 180 email addresses, so only a proportion of people who receive the Gateway receive email. Email notifications occur whenever information is available.
3. Progressively, we are establishing a presence on **Facebook**, and eventually this might become the most popular channel.

If you receive the Gateway, but don't receive email notifications (and would like to), send your email address to info@brooklyncommunity.org.au, and we will add you to our contact list. We won't knowingly publish your email address to others (we use the bcc method). You can unsubscribe at any time.

The BROOKLYN DELI Returns!

The Brooklyn Deli will be re-opening its doors in early September under new management. The Deli will be run along the same lines as before, offering good coffee, breakfasts, light lunches, green grocery, a selection of meats and cheeses and much, much more.

Looking to include a fresh sandwich bar and offer catering services to the local community, we are very excited and looking forward to meeting the people of Brooklyn.

We are currently advertising for local staff including wait staff and a weekend barista, would love to keep it local!

Pokemon Go in Brooklyn

As a 50 year old and level 7 trainer Pokemon Go trainer it was very difficult to convince my elderly father of the virtues and pleasures of this addictive phenomena. Dad had missed the first wave of the card based game in the late nineties, early naughties in which his grandchildren were fully immersed and could be forgiven for thinking "Pik-a-chu" was something you did at Forbes footwear.

He remained unimpressed that this game encourages families to frolic along footpaths exploring their neighbourhoods and getting much needed exercise. "I'd rather take a lovely walk to the dam and look for native flowers or aboriginal carvings" he huffed. "Whatever happened to treasure hunts?" He muttered. Dad had a point. As an educator in the field of technology I have the burdensome task of at least appearing to keep abreast of the latest gizmo.

So what good is Pokemon Go?

In classrooms across the country dulled eyed children bludgeoned with tests and homework soon adopt a fatalist, deterministic view of the world and their part in it. Nothing appears new, all the best ideas have been taken and any involvement seems pointless.

"Tim Berners Lee has already invented the web, Bill Gates (Windows) and Linus Torvaldis (Linux) have already done operating systems ...no point thinking about inventing a social media software...Mark Zuckerberg (Facebook) has done that..."

Then all of the sudden a new game appears that transforms the experience of game playing and interactions with reality. The message? There will always be a "next best thing". It is an empowering one for creative young minds to hang on to.

Pokemon Go uses the convergence of augmented reality and GPS technologies to deliver a fun, playful entertainment that takes the computer screen out from behind private closed doors and into a public space. Many of us live disembodied lives inhabiting virtual worlds through digital screens. If we are destined (as a species) to evolve into "brains-in-jars" then at least this step into a real (though augmented) world could be seen as a positive one.

Pokemon Go hunters around Parsley Bay will not only be rewarded with a *Magikarp* (or maybe the rumoured *Gyarados*), they will come across a huge shiny Pokemon Gym at the very site where the new ramp is being constructed. While the former was constructed overnight by the clever digital designers at Nintendo the latter was being bought into being over many months "old school" with cranes, chains and a few suspicious workmen. (unsure why they were being photographed; I was in a Pokemon battle). Brooklyn Pokemon hunters will know that another gym and place to replenish balls can be found at, the park and Auntie Shir's stand. We can take some provincial pride that gaming tourists from interstate and overseas can be seen noting these local icons.

It would though be a tremendous shame if the same tourists (eyes down) missed the afternoon light on the sandstone cliffs above Wobby, the gnarled pink angophoras of Dangar or the deep olive green waters of the Hawkesbury river.

There is wisdom in the old man's words. In living through such digital virtual worlds are we at risk of losing familiarity with the materiality and substance of the real one. Of how to touch, navigate, explore and take joy from it. Of how (most importantly) to respect it.

Maybe the next "big thing" comes in barefoot bushwalking, in breathing deeply the forest air and in reawakening the senses to the natural environment. Who's up for taking the kids on a bushwalk this weekend?

Professor Oak

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



Bookings essential, pay on the day

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

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

Email: info@brooklyncommunity.org.au for information or to unsubscribe.

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Master Plan - Community Reference Group

The first meeting of the Community Reference Group for the Brooklyn Master Plan will be held at the Brooklyn Community Meeting Room on Wednesday 17 August. (Thanks to the community who lobbied for the meeting to be held in Brooklyn, rather than Hornsby, and to Jo Scarbrick's Yoga Group who made the meeting room available).

The following is the list of Community Reference Group Members as published by Hornsby Council (noting the Council's list contains a couple of duplicates).

Organisation	Representative
1. Brooklyn and District Garden Club	Bob Davis
2. Brooklyn Community Association	Robert Arnold
3. Brooklyn Community Hall Project Committee	Elizabeth Surrest (second Anna Jones)
4. Brooklyn Ferry Service	Richard Stockley
5. Brooklyn Fundraising Association	Michelle Armstrong
6. Brooklyn Marina	Paul Ritter
7. Brooklyn Mooney Mooney Lower Hawkesbury Branch - Australian Labor Party	Miriam Moloney
8. Brooklyn Mooring Cooperative (BMC)	Anne Conway
9. Brooklyn Public School	Ingrid Segovia
10. Brooklyn Public School P&C	Diane Bowles
11. Brooklyn RSL Sub-Branch	Bob Davis
12. Community Progress Association	Lindsay Johnson
13. Dangar Island League Inc.	Vanessa O'Keefe (second Judith Doyle)
14. Estuary Restaurant	Justin Yap
15. Fenwicks Marina	Andrew Fenwick
16. Hawkesbury River Commercial Fishers Association	Donna Goslett
17. Hawkesbury River Sailing Club	Malcolm Sinclair (second Alan Dickerson)
18. Hawkesbury River Yacht Club	Elizabeth Braybrooks
19. Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Greens	Wendy McMurdo
20. Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Sailing Club (PCYC)	Mark Alexander
21. Little Wobby Residents Group	Pat Woolley
22. Luxury A Float Hawkesbury River & Brooklyn Pty Ltd	Michael Jones
23. Milsons Passage Progress Association	Lindsay Johnson
24. Soames Real Estate	Michael Kas
25. The Riverboat Postman	Justin Pigneguy
26. VRA Hawkesbury River (Hawkesbury River Rescue)	Alan Cinis
27. Representing themselves	Robert Croft
28. Representing themselves	Anna Jones
29. Representing themselves	Mary Erling
30. Representing themselves	Jacki Fewtrell Gobert
31. Representing themselves	Cindy Corkery
32. Tyrone Corp Pty Ltd	Peter McNamee