

Gateway

Newsletter of the Brooklyn Community Association Inc

May 2018

President's Report

(Next Issue August 2018)

Not only do we live in the lucky country, we live in a wonderful community. Did you know that over a quarter of Australians live alone which can result in isolation and increased mental health issues? Here in Brooklyn we have so many opportunities for young and old to get involved, make friends and stay connected. This edition of the Gateway explores the many activities that are happening in our community.

We are excited to let you know about new volunteer opportunities - the Brooklyn Community Association now has two new subcommittees. One is the oral history project. We plan to record the stories of the wonderful, interesting people that have made Brooklyn what it is today. We want to ensure that these stories are saved and shared.

Our sustainability subcommittee has already met to discuss recycling, and we are looking into renewable energy options for the community. To see the exciting work other communities are doing go to <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-07/people-power:-communities-funding-their-own-wind/9630150>.

If you are interested in either subcommittee, send an email to info@brooklyncommunity.org.au, indicate your subject of interest and we will contact you with more information.

Since our last meeting, the committee has been working to ensure the Independent Hearing and Assessment Panel selection process is fair and transparent and we have attended Council meetings to express our views. We will update you at the next meeting.

The Council is busy digging up Brooklyn Road on the west side of town. They are installing storm drainage, curb and guttering and putting in the missing part of the shared cycleway/footpath. The path will continue down to Seymours Creek and will take until the end of the year to finish. It might be difficult to get down the road for a few months, but it will be fantastic to be able to walk the length of Brooklyn and back!

The community has been working with Minister Matt Kean to advocate for lifts at the Hawkesbury River Station, and we have sent around links for you to sign a petition. You can also sign at the pub. We should know in a few months if our lifts have made it into the budget for funding.

We would also like to thank Steve Hayes for his three years of being Captain of the RFS. He did a wonderful job with a very busy fire brigade.

Di Bowles, President Brooklyn Community Association

president@brooklyncommunity.org.au

<p style="text-align: center;">Brooklyn Community Association General Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10am-12noon Saturday 16 June 2018: Brooklyn Community Meeting Room</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Guest Speakers from Transport for NSW</i> <i>Jason McGuire - Associate Director Freight Access and Performance</i> <i>David Hanson - Senior Manager Freight Performance</i> <i>The Rail Noise Attenuation Program and what they are doing in Brooklyn</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">BCA Members, Guests and Friends welcome</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Meeting Dates</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2018</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday 8 September 1 December</p>
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We would like to acknowledge the contribution to the BCA of RW Corkery & Co who kindly provide committee meeting facilities and print the Gateway newsletter, and Gary Robertson, Brooklyn's postie and musician, and his associates, who kindly deliver the Gateway in the community.

Is there a Doctor in the House?

Brooklyn Community Health Centre: 02 9985 7717

The answer to the question above is a resounding "Yes!"

In fact, in Brooklyn, there are a number of doctors available at Brooklyn Community Health Centre and General Practice Unit.

The GP unit is open each weekday and is serviced by a blend of experienced senior doctors and younger medical graduates who are undertaking extra training in General Practice. Besides having their own patients, the senior doctors act in a supervisory capacity regarding the trainees, in order to maintain the highest standards of medical care.

Opening hours:

- Monday 9.00am to 12.00pm;
and 2.00pm to 4.00pm.
- Tuesday 9.00am to 12.00pm
- Wednesday 2.00pm to 4.00pm
- Thursday 10.30am to 12.00pm
- Friday 9.00am to 12.00pm

Other services available at the Centre are: physiotherapy; podiatry, psychology; seniors exercise classes; seated yoga classes.

So, when you're next in need of medical or health assistance, you'll know where to get excellent and convenient attention: Brooklyn Community Health Centre and GP Unit, Corner Brooklyn Road and Dangar Road. Phone: 02 9985 7717 to speak with one of the friendly and efficient receptionists and make an appointment.

Familiar Brooklyn Faces



Two Brooklyn old-timers meet at Regis Hornsby. Tom Richmond (left) is pictured with Doug Fenwick (right).

Doug is now a resident at Regis, after many years living and working in Brooklyn. He is doing well and welcomes Brooklyn visitors to the Regis

Tom has been a voluntary presenter at Regis for the past eleven years. Tom was presented with an award for his service as part of Volunteers Week, and was nominated by Regis Hornsby. Tom is well known for his history publications, and his voluntary work as a Consumer Advisor for Northern Health, as a Justice of the Peace, and as a guest lecturer at Chase Alive and U3A (University of the Third Age).

Brooklyn Public School: Important Dates

- Great Aussie Bush Camp (Years 5&6) June 6/8
- Queen's Birthday Holiday June 11
- NAIDOC - Week of Celebration July 2
- Last Day Term 2 July 6
- Students return Term 3 July 24

*Debbie Aselford School Administration Manager
Brooklyn Public School*



Peer learning with Year 6 and Kindergarten

Brooklyn Settlement

BYGONE BROOKLYN

By Tom Richmond

These days, it is natural to think of the area around the station as being the oldest part of Brooklyn, but settlement occurred from the other end because the 1848 road provided a connection with the outside world long before the railway arrived in 1887.



This photo shows most of the Cole property as it was in 1938. Wharf Street is at bottom left.

George Peat, already settled at Mooney, bought ten acres at Kangaroo Point in 1847. The first person to occupy land, however, was Vincent William Seymour, who took up 40 acres in the valley where a sporting field was recently added.

In the same year, Robert Milson bought forty acres between Seymour's property and Convent Hill (near Wharf Street), but he did not settle there. In 1878, Isaac Cole conditionally purchased forty acres between Convent Hill and the Salt Pan.

Between the Salt Pan and Baden Powell Avenue was never purchased as a single property. It was subdivided before being released by the government and was known as the "Village of Bywater." Between Baden Powell and Government Road was conditionally purchased by James Ross and confirmed in 1883. The area where the station is now was purchased by land investors, King and Robinson in 1840, but purchased in 1881 by the Fagan Family, who were possibly aware that the railway would pass through the land.

In fact, the arrival of the railway changed everything. Subdivision of the land commenced in 1883. The first purchases included Numbers 13 to 15 on the subdivision plan, purchased by the Brooklyn Hotel, and Number 11, where Blinkbonnie now is, purchased for a store owned by William Dick. Sales were, however, relatively slow and large areas remained unsold until after the First World War.

The Ross property turned out to be a goldmine for James Ross. It was close to the railway and Brooklyn Road was formed up running through it. Between 1883 and 1907, most of the land above Brooklyn Road was sold. The part below the road was known as Ross's Paddock and sold later.

The first land taken up in the Bywater Village area was used by the first police station and then the school, both in 1884. Isaac Cole's property was purchased by his brother, James, then resold. Subdivisions took place from 1887. Milson's land was subdivided in 1913 and only small sections of the Seymour property were subdivided. Kangaroo Point was actually subdivided after World War I and 24 blocks were sold. These, however, were resumed for road construction and were never built upon.

Tom Richmond uncletom@optusnet.com.au

SSSSSSh Brooklyn Don't Tell Anyone

So who am I to comment on Brooklyn? I mean I don't even live in the town so what useful insight could I offer? Well I stay there now and again to visit my mother and stepfather/mate who now call the place home but my connection extends beyond that. You see I have spent a great deal of time living abroad. I served over 25 years in the Army and am a veteran of several conflicts. When people find themselves in environments for extended periods of time that are unpleasant and often traumatising they tend to cast their thoughts to more pleasant and comforting places. For me, my mind would drift back to Byron Bay and Brooklyn.

I first spied Brooklyn some twenty years ago from the highway while travelling from Holsworthy Army Barracks in Sydney to Williamstown Air Force Base in Newcastle. In contrast to the throng of the attention seeking Sydney, Brooklyn looked tranquil, inviting and confident standing alone surrounded by nature. I asked people on the bus 'What town is that?', but no one could shed any light other than someone thought they saw a sign saying Brooklyn. 'Brooklyn eh, I must look into that' I thought.

I started to read about the place and what I found was fascinating. Unsurprisingly it was a place frequented by the indigenous Australians that managed to keep the place pristine for tens-of-thousands of years before the white settlers decided the place could do with some convicts and infrastructure. I read on Hang on, Brooklyn is the resting place of Gunner Robert Buie who supposedly took down the Red Baron. The rail line was an alleged potential target for Japanese midget subs in WWII to disrupt Australia's supply line. Brooklyn and some of you reading this have even featured in a couple of movies. Add this kind of fame with a beautiful and complex eco system, great fishing, cool restaurants, a classic Aussie pub, the alluring Dangar Island and some very colourful locals that hate a drink and you have one great place.

It is absolutely the type of place I could see myself living in. It is a tight knit fringe community that can heal. For this reason I bet there are some of our war veterans and our emergency services personnel already set up there.

I once saw Brooklyn described as a 'quaint town' in a tourist guide. Not sure I agree. If Sydney exudes a Diva image screaming for attention in a Kardashian way, then Brooklyn is a husky voiced blues singer whose song makes you tap your foot as it works its way into your psyche. Whatever you are Brooklyn, you are unique and there is simply no better place on the planet. Hopefully as you go forward you find the balance between charm, nature and development. So Shhhh, keep this little river paradise to yourselves you zany, eclectic mix of artists, small business owners, veterans, tradies, farmers and tree changers.

*By Ron Armstrong the Author of Tiger Tears
www.ronarmstrongauthor.com*

Rural Fire Service Update

My time as Captain of the Brooklyn Rural Fire Brigade has come to an end. For the past 3 years I have sat in the big chair leading a diverse, intelligent and committed team of volunteers. Brooklyn is blessed to have such a wonderful group of people and their families that allow them to spend so much of their own time protecting, training, planning and responding at any hour of the day and night.

I am a firm believer that change is a powerful tool when it comes to leading a team. 12 months ago a succession plan was developed on how I was going to vacate the position and the person voted in as my replacement by the brigade is Tim O'Mahony (pictured) as Captain and he is supported by Andrew Campbell Senior Deputy and the executive team. I now hold the position of Deputy 1 and will remain an active member of the brigade for a while longer. I wish Tim and Andrew all the best with their new positions and hope that the community can get right in behind them with their endeavours to continue the extremely important work that their team of volunteers provide.

Over past month alone, we have attended 15 call outs to bushfires, Truck fires, car accidents, as well as oil spills.

Steve Hayes Brooklyn Rural Fire Brigade



“Peat Island Dreaming and Desecration” by Adrian Mitchell

On Sunday afternoon 29th May, people crowded into the little chapel at Mooney Mooney for a new story of spirituality, love and loss. Adrian Mitchell, author, academic and local of North Wahroonga, has delivered an inspirational narrative history in his telling of the Peat Island story in his new book “*Peat Island Dreaming and Desecration*”, published by Wakefield Press 2018.

With his usual deft touch of lilting tale sprinkled with detailed notes this book is easy to read and rigorously researched. It honours the people who called little Kooroowall-Undi (or Peat Island) home not just for the last hundred years but for thousands of years, and casts a critical light on some of the decisions that have led to the abandonment of the island and adjacent lands today. And this is where Elizabeth Farrelly, author, critic and philosopher, known to many of us through her weekly commentary in the Sydney Morning Herald, took up as she launched the book. From the quietude of today we, as the local custodians, need to breathe into the island, like the serpent’s breath that covers the Hawkesbury of a wintry morning (citing Adrian Mitchell and Juno Gemes). Farrelly challenges us to write the new chapter of the Peat Island story; that its future should be fun, unique and significant.

Consensus by authors and audience alike was the need on the Island for an opportunity to reflect, both for those left or lost there, and those coming, or returning, inspired afresh by the Hawkesbury. This book weaves together many local stories and insights gathered from historians, writers and observers within our community. Now is your turn, what would you like to see at Peat Island? A cultural centre, model for an eco-habitat, or a school/tafe/uni centre with a marine focus and boat-building?



Peter Davis with Author Adrian Mitchell



Enthusiastic locals with Elizabeth Farrelly

“*Peat Island Dreaming and Desecration*” by Adrian Mitchell can be found in bookshops such as Novella in Wahroonga or online at <http://www.wakefieldpress.com.au>, along with his other books.

Event organised by Peter Davis and Myff Sharp myffsharp@gmail.com

Brooklyn Oyster Singers Choir



The Brooklyn Oyster Singers Choir welcomes new members. The choir meets on Tuesday evenings at 7.15pm at the Mooney Mooney Chapel and our philosophy is to sing and have fun doing it. All adults welcome, reasonable rates. For further details contact Heather Keens on 0497 770 231 or keenshg@gmail.com

Beating Plastic Pollution

If you've heard about China's ban on the importation of waste you've probably heard that it spells disaster for Australia's kerb side recycling. China was identified as one of the largest contributors to ocean plastics. Most of the plastics going to China including Australian recycling was unsorted and only 10% was recoverable. Some was burned which contributed to the problems with air pollution. The rest was dumped.

The ban is an opportunity for us as Australians to take responsibility for our waste. I'm not just talking about recycling, because that is only part of the solution. It is also about using our choices to reduce plastic in our everyday life. Here a few ways you can make a difference.

1. Avoid: Buy non plastic products or products with no plastic packaging. A good example is buying things that are not made of plastic in the first place, or buying loose fruit and veggies.
2. Reduce: Choose products with alternative biodegradable packaging, eg paper and cardboard.
3. Reuse: Instead of buying bin liners use your packaging waste bags to dispose of your messiest rubbish. You don't really need bags for most of your rubbish.
4. Reuse: Use reusable bags for shopping.
5. Recycling: Collect your soft plastics and recycle them.
6. Recycling: Continue to use your recycling bin and follow your Council guidelines on what containers can be recycled.
7. Recycling; Use the container deposit scheme and earn some money.

Tuesday 5th June is World Environment Day. The theme for this year is "*Beating Plastic Pollution*". So take action and commit to doing at least one of the things listed above.

*Ingrid Segovia
Brooklyn resident & Environmental Scientist*

Marine Rescue

Marine Rescue Hawkesbury, located at 3 Kowan Road Mooney, is an accredited volunteer rescue organisation that provides coverage for the boating public using the Hawkesbury River and Broken Bay areas and as far as Windsor and Berowra Waters.

With highly trained volunteers covering such areas as First Aid and Advanced Resuscitation, both our vessels Hawkesbury 21 and Hawkesbury 22 are state of the art rescue vessels able to respond to any incident whether locally or offshore. Both vessels are under survey and have the capability to navigate up to 15 nautical miles offshore.

Our primary focus is to provide assistance to those that use and live on the Hawkesbury River and we are able to provide a quick response in the event of any emergency or those just requiring a simple tow to a safe haven.

Several of our members are local residents but we do have members that travel from the general Hornsby and Blacktown precincts.

If you enjoy our beautiful Hawkesbury River and have an interest in boating or just looking to volunteer your time to help the public, please consider Marine Rescue Hawkesbury where you will be provided with free training in all aspects of boating.



*Ken Edwards
UNIT COMMANDER
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Hawkesbury River Oyster Shed

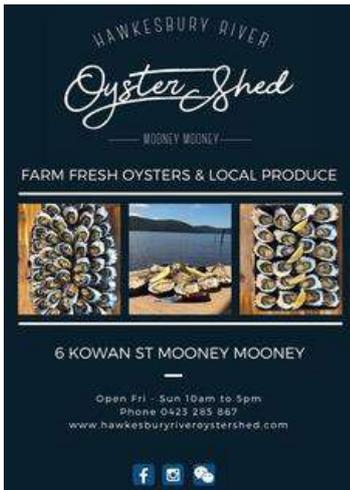
Pete O'Sullivan has owned oyster leases on the Hawkesbury River since 2006, growing two types of oysters, Sydney Rock and Pacific Oysters. Deb and Pete opened the Hawkesbury River Oyster Shed just before Christmas 2017. They sell, when available, freshly caught local fish and river prawns.

A new addition is frozen goods, which include calamari, prawns, scallops and baby octopus.

Pete smokes his own oysters and mullet by firstly marinating in a special brine recipe, then smoking them to perfection. A MUST TO TRY, DELICIOUS.

An idyllic spot to sit and eat the tastiest oysters and enjoy the magnificent surroundings of the Hawkesbury River. Why not bring a bottle of wine with you and sit outside or inside and enjoy yourselves while eating fresh food from the Hawkesbury River.

Located on the Hawkesbury River, 100 m down the hill from the Mooney Mooney Workers Club. (20 minutes by car from Wahroonga to Mooney Mooney on the M1).



Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10.00am to 5.00pm. or phone on 0423 285 867

Look up the Oyster Shed on Facebook, Instagram or the website www.hawkesburyriveroystershed.com

*Simon and Shirley Pullen
spu5405@bigpond.net.au*

Hawkesbury River Sailing Club.

The end of the 2017/2018 sailing season has come and gone following a season of moderate success in the weather department. Out of a scheduled calendar of ten races, we managed to complete seven having to abandon three races due to strong wind warnings. This summer season seemed to be dominated by some strong southerly air flows which is unusual as north easterlies usually dominate during the summer months.

Despite the loss of three races, the seven race series was successful with some tight racing resulting in many close finishes and the final point scores separated by only a few points.

"Jaffar" was the Trophy winner in both the Hawkesbury River Cup and the Club Championship, with "Matnagar" second and "Capricorn" third in both series.

A Presentation/Annual General Meeting function will be held in August to present the series winners with their trophies and start proceedings for the new sailing season.

Due to the unpredictable weather, club cruising activities during the summer were not attempted, however one of our boats did participate in one of the Hawkesbury River Yacht Clubs Picnic Cruise and Barbeque event in February which was thoroughly enjoyed.

Apart from an early luncheon to start the season off, land based activities during the season were minimal however a road trip to the Murray River District is being planned for later this year.

Anybody interested in joining HRSC with or without a boat will be most welcome. We can be contacted via our website, www.hrsc.org.au, or by calling one of the contact numbers listed on the website.



*Malcolm Sinclair
Secretary Hawkesbury River Sailing Club
0408 670 611 malcolmws@bigpond.com*

Hornsby Council Update

Upgraded steps at McKell Park

The upgrade at McKell Park Steps, behind the playground, has been completed. There are 99 new steps which provide a safe and scenic access between upper and lower McKell Park. The contractors that Council engaged for this project maintained a very high standard from start to finish. The steps are a real work of art and will outlast us all!

Why not visit McKell Park, find a place along the new steps to rest and enjoy the beautiful bush and Brooklyn view. If you have a walking/running route around Brooklyn why not trying to incorporate the steps- they will keep you healthy and in good spirit!



Have you visited the new 'Hawkesbury Watch Webportal'?

Council's Natural Resources team has collated into one webportal a number of different web links related to water quality in the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary. This webportal now includes information on our real-time monitoring water quality probes, water levels, rainfall, algal monitoring, swimming conditions, estuary health indices and results from the latest sediment monitoring. Currently the team is analyzing the historical data set of water quality that started back in 1995 at some locations in the shire. The analysis will look at trends and exceedance of guideline's thresholds. This information will assist us in better diverting resources and sampling effort among the shire.

The new link to Council's webportal is <http://www.mhlfrit.net/users/HornsbyShireCouncil/>

*Ana Rubio Natural Resources Hornsby Shire Council
02 9847 6899 arubio@hornsby.nsw.gov.au*

Hawkesbury River Yacht Club

Our seemingly never-ending summer has provided us with a lot of great sailing in this stunning corner of the world – the lower Hawkesbury and Broken Bay.

The past few months have seen the club run our biweekly, Saturday Passage Series and Windward/Leeward races, as well as the monthly Wednesday social race and raft up, which usually finishes in one of the tranquil bays off Cowan Creek.

Apart from continuing to enjoy ourselves, the highlight has been *Eikon*, one of the club's boats, being declared the handicap winner of the 2017-2018 Broken Bay Interclub Challenge (BBIC). This series of four races takes place over the summer months in the lower Hawkesbury, Broken Bay, Pittwater and Brisbane Waters, with Royal Motor Yacht Club, Gosford Sailing Club, Avalon Sailing Club, Pittwater Aquatic Club and Palm Beach Yacht Club.

This season saw 40 yachts signed up for the BBIC, and for such a small club, HRYC managed to enter four boats with *Eikon* 1st (Cliff Sutton, North Rocks), and *Cecilia* (Russell Bellamy, Cowan), *Amoeba* (James Donnelly, Brooklyn) and *Crossbow* (Terry Dorrrough, Dangar Island). The third race of this series finishes at Brooklyn, where the club hosts a BBQ for the competing sailors at McKell Park - for more than 20 years.

We extend a welcome all those interested in sailing, and invite visitors to join us as guests, crew, or to bring their own boats. Find us at <http://hryc.asn.au/> or on Facebook, or call Cliff on 0425 310 930.

Lee Malone

