

Newsletter of the Brooklyn Community Association Inc

August 2018

(Next Issue November 2018)

President's Report

We hope you enjoy this edition of the Gateway. We are including more of the amazing events, art and volunteering that happens in our community. If you have anything to share, please get in touch.

For any of you around the area on Saturday the 18th, you would have seen the smoke pouring over the ridge from the fire at Coba Point. The fire season has come early and the drought will make it a precarious summer. It is important that you have a fire plan. Our guest speaker at the next meeting is the new Captain of the Brooklyn Rural Fire Brigade, Tim O'Mahony. He will discuss how you can access information to help you get your house ready, create a plan, and the tools that are available to keep informed.

The AGM for the Medical Health Centre was held on Wednesday the 22nd. During the meeting, the CEO of Hornsby Hospital, Lee Gregory, allayed any fears of it closing and stated that the Medical Health Centre would continue to provide services to the community.

We hope to see you at the Spring Fair, come and say hello to us at our BCA stall and find out what the BCA does and sign up as a member. At our stall, we will be holding a shopping bag competition. Bring in your best shopping bag creation that displays the beauty of the Hawkesbury River and enter. We are hoping to make the winning bag into bags you can buy for your shopping.

Everyone knows how good volunteering is for your mental health and we have a few opportunities listed in this Gateway. Help out with driving people who need your help to get places, help out in a community garden, or help with recording the stories of Brooklyn.

We were excited to hear that Brian Scarsbrick remains the IHAP member for the Council. Brian's extensive experience at the National Trust will add great value and knowledge to the panel.

See you at the meeting!

Di Bowles, President Brooklyn Community Association

president@brooklyncommunity.org.au

Brooklyn Community Association General Meeting

10am-12noon Saturday 8 September 2018 Brooklyn Community Meeting Room

Guest Speaker from NSW Rural Fire Service *Tim O'Mahony Captain*

BCA Members, Guests and Friends welcome

Meeting Dates 2018

Saturday

1 December 3pm AGM

Next Meeting - AGM and Xmas Celebration

The Brooklyn Community Association Committee invites all members and friends to join us on Saturday, 1st December at 3pm for our Annual General Meeting and afterwards for a Christmas get together.

If you would like to contribute a small plate of food it would be appreciated.

Brooklyn Public School Dates

Other Events

> Father's Day BBQ Thu 30 Aug

> Hornsby Music Festival Mon 10 Sep

End of Term Assembly
Thu 27 Sep

Bridge to Bridge Sat & Sun 24 & 25 Nov

The Gateway is published by the Brooklyn Community Association. Contact the BCA on info@brooklyncommunity.org.au.

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.

Visions for Brooklyn – November Issue of Gateway

The theme for the November issue of the Gateway will be **Visions for Brooklyn**. Brooklyn and the wider community and businesses are invited to submit their ideas for their vision for Brooklyn. Submissions can be written items, illustrations and cartoons, photographs, etc. Submissions can be up to 200 words, or ⅓ of an A4 sheet. Cut-off date for submissions is Friday 16 November 2018 at info@brooklyncommunity.org.au. Submissions will contain an attribution in the Gateway and may be edited if there are space issues.

Our New Life at the Old Brooklyn Post Office

We are pleased to report that we are the new owners and occupants of the Old Brooklyn Post Office and the old Postmaster's cottage. After 5 years operating from the Brooklyn Learning and Leisure Centre, Carolyn has relocated her shop - immi's - into the old post office building at 13 Bridge Street. Vic has managed to find a corner for his planning consultancy office although with the large range of quality second hand clothing, bric-a-brac, antiques and furniture, this has proved something of a challenge.

It's great to be able to work and live in the middle of this unique atmosphere and to build our relationships with the community.



Miriam Moloney & Robert Arnold Gateway Editors

Come and visit. Walk across the original threshold into yesteryear and enjoy the Federation experience - high ceiling, tall windows and the genuine PMG era counter from which Carolyn will attempt to sell you anything in the shop (no stamps).

The chooks and the cat have moved in and, with the occasional visiting children and grandchildren we are now happy to call Brooklyn "home".

Carolyn and Vic Schubert

Community gardens

Community gardens are great places to bring people together, to encourage physical activity, create community links and share community knowledge. A community garden is a great place to learn, grow and share our experiences and our harvest.

A team will be working closely with the local school community to set up a school based community garden. We are looking for people who would like to help get this happening and to look at all options for community based garden activities.

Please contact the Brooklyn Community Association at info@brooklyncommunity.org.au to register your interest and be part of this fantastic initiative.

Ingrid Segovia

Proposed Marine Park for the Hawkesbury Shelf Bioregion

As part of the recently launched Marine Estate Management Authority (MEMA) Strategy, a marine park is proposed for the Hawkesbury Shelf Bioregion.

Residents of the river communities can review the proposed Marine Park by accessing the following link:

https://www.marine.nsw.gov.au/key-initiatives/hawkesbury-shelf-marine-assessment

- > The marine park maps clearly indicate that it is not a typical blanket area of exclusion. There are only small pockets where certain activities are restricted to protect highly sensitive environmental aspects e.g. the penguin colony on Lion Island and the endangered Posidonia seagrass population at Barrenjoey Headland.
- > Several of the protected sites are already aquatic reserves (such as Narrabeen, Long Reef, Cabbage Tree Bay and Towra), so there is no real change to the existing usage.

People can have their say on the proposed marine park by completing the online submission form by 27 September 2018: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HawkesburyDP

Brian Scarsbrick AM, Community Member Lower Estuary Management Committee

Dangar Road Properties

Dangar Road was a tidal inlet before the reclamation of 1908/9 turned it into dry land. Along with what is now McKell Park, the area formed part of the Railway Reclamation Reserve, a camping area controlled by the Railway. In about the1920s, four buildings were constructed along Dangar Road.

BYGONE BROOKLYN By Tom Richmond

No.10 Dangar Road most recently saw service as an Art Cottage, but old-timers are more likely to know it as "Neddy Green's Cottage". Neddy was the labourer attached to Brooklyn by Hornsby Council, who carried out maintenance work as required. Neddy, too, was a descendant of "Granny" Lewis and the Broken Bay Aboriginal group. Prior to Neddy's occupation of the house, it had been a railway cottage.



Figure 1 Dangar Road in about 1920

Opposite the railway entrance was the food bar, known for many years as "The Fish Shop". Its original owners may have been the Armstrongs, whose daughter, Mavis, married Gordon Windybank and established Windybank's Bait Service at Mt Colah. It was built in the 1920s, as was the residence next door that became the Seniors' Cottage.

Where the Health Centre now stands a store was opened in about 1920. It was owned by the Forbes family. It served as a general store for many years and then became a doctor's surgery.

In 1980, the Health Department decided to provide a replacement medical service for Brooklyn. It approached Hornsby Council to use the land in Dangar Road. Money was raised by the Brooklyn community and labour was provided by the Health Department. The Health Centre became the location for a modern medical service operated through Hornsby Hospital. After 21 years, the Council decided that as it managed the land, it also owned the building, and would manage it as well.

Behind the Seniors' Cottage is the old shelter shed for the Railway Reserve. It should have heritage status both because it served as the venue for early fund-raisers and because it may well be the only facility surviving from the days when the railway ran camping grounds. It certainly deserves better treatment than it is currently receiving.

Any future use of these properties must be discussed with the Brooklyn community. We tried to obtain the use of No 10 as a heritage cottage in 2002 but Council was not interested.

Tom Richmond uncletom@optusnet.com.au

Crossing the Hawkesbury River

The first time I crossed the Hawkesbury in a car was in 1942 before the road bridge was built. We boarded the ferry at Kangaroo Point. The car was an old Chev, owned by my uncle. He and my aunt were taking mum, my sister, brother and I, to the Entrance at Tuggerah Lakes for Christmas holidays. The Second World War was well under way. Petrol was rationed and hard to come by. I have often wondered how my uncle found enough to take us that year. Heavy traffic with army trucks and delivery vans made it a slow trip. It took hours, bumper to bumper to come down the hill from Cowan. When we finally reached the bottom two men approached our car, one carried a banjo and the other carried a large hat. They stood at our open window and the banjo started up, PLINK, PLONK, Then the singer started:



All you needed was a white dust-coat and a leather bag and the customers paid up. Car queue for the ferry about 1938.

"In me arms, in me arms, ain't I never gunner get a girl in me arms, Come the dawn I'll be gawn, I need a girl in me arms tonight. In me arms, in me arms, ain't I never gunner get a honey holding me tight, a girl in me arms tonight".

And so on, repeated over and over. As soon as he finished singing, his mate pushed the hat through the window and said, "Any donations gratefully received." "Get off with you" answered Mum. "You should be paying us to listen to you." Mum had worked hard for enough money to have our holiday and she was not

prepared to waste it on a roving part-time singer. From memory we came home by steam train.

Argyrosomus

A Story by the late Ted Roberts

Argyrosomus was feeling the weight of his twenty-five years.

He drifted, half asleep in the rusted confines of what he liked to think of as home, though if truth were told it was only a temporary week-ender he used when not cruising the seas and beaches looking for food and sex.

Sex, surprisingly, still interested him greatly in spite of his twenty-five years, but there was certainly little available here in the wreck. Whereas food was a different matter. It would be possible to exist solely on the burley that seemed to rain down most nights through the dark water. The burley (or manna from heaven, as he liked to think of it), the one he most liked though he was unaware of its provenance, was a form of chicken pellet that tasted like, well, chicken. But this delicacy was becoming boring, even when mixed with the unwary bait-fish which liked to explore the wreck and try to share said burley, usually to their great and terminal regret.

So it was that Argyrosomus looked with some interest at the rather tasty looking squid which was floating towards him, though the very bizarre actions of the cephalopod were unlike anything one would expect to experience in nature. He recalled with some bitterness the squid he'd made the mistake of nibbling all those years ago. It took months for the hook to finally erode, and though there was little pain involved, there was a great deal of inconvenience in dragging metres of braided fishing line along behind him for those months. He did not wish to repeat the mistake.

The bait drifted closer towards him and he studied it carefully, deciding that there was a possible innocent taste or two even if a hook were buried somewhere inside it. He nudged it delicately to gauge the naturalness of its response, and was somewhat annoyed when the tasty morsel abruptly jerked away. Another inexperienced amateur angler was trying his luck. Perhaps the same one who contributed to his diet on most of the nights when the high tide coincided with a moonless sky.

From this benevolent source he'd received not only burley, but pilchards, mullet strips, and occasional large prawns. Some of these offerings had been well past their use-by date, and he had long wished that the anonymous donor would graduate to more acceptable live bait. Could this, he wondered, be it?

The squid floated back again, and more for sport than hunger Argyrosomus sucked it in little by little, carefully. And yes, he could feel that the squid had been pierced through the back with a single hook. He carefully nipped off the squid's trailing head, the eight arms and the two tentacles, which made for a not unappetising, if a little postuse-by, tit-bit. He gave the last morsel a careful little extra twitch, just for fun, and watched as the remainder of the cephalopod was again snatched away, to disappear upwards as the line was frantically recovered, after the "bite".

The place in which Argyrosomus made his temporary home had been once the galley of the old warship 'HMAS Swan'. He had entered it initially by swimming in through a port hole, but as he was now somewhat larger than he had been in those halcyon days, his entry and egress would have been more difficult had not the deck-head of this galley rusted away over the years and there was no longer a roof to restrict his comings and goings. It was also through this lack of cover that the burley and baits could be presented to him.

He was comfortable in "Swan". The old warship lay in a fairly deep hole only a few metres from the Little Wobby shore, where she had come to an unhappy ending many years ago, after serving gallantly in World War One. Decommissioned, an attempt to use her as a barge on the Hawkesbury had failed miserably, and as if in disgust at this humiliation, she had broken from her moorings and sank here, where she had stayed for nearly eighty years. In the fast-running tides of the river she had become an artificial reef, home to piscine wildlife of many kinds, and a magnet for that world's greatest optimist, the amateur fisherman. Here the modern day Isaac Walton was able, with hope in his heart, to cast his lines among jagged, sharply rusted metal plates that had become bedecked with hundred upon hundreds of hooks of many sizes and shapes, lures feathered or brightly painted, leaden sinkers, metres of nylon and expensive braided line, red, green, blue or transparent, any number of broken rod parts, and even one or two reels that had migrated at great cost from Japan only to end their days here in solitude.

For Argyrosomus the old galley could have represented a trophy room or a museum of defeated weaponry. But of course in spite of his age and his great size, he was still only a fish. A Mulloway, or Jewfish in the vernacular, and fish, as every fisherman knows, have no power of thought. Rather than admiring his trophy room, he floated there in the pleasant dark, quietly digesting the small taste he'd had of squid, and awaiting the next cast, the next bait.

He was a handsome beast, and well aware of it. The admiring looks of many of the females of the species had made him perhaps a little vain, but every male knows the necessity of a little amour-propre. His twenty five years had endowed him, too, with a piscatorial education that was unusual in these waters, and essential to continuing a long and healthy existence.

His was a quiet, pensive life, as the lives of fish go, and he was content. Very occasionally he would feel the urge to swim free of this environment, and look for something more. And more often than not, he found that elusive something in the deep, fast-running waters beneath the Hawkesbury River Bridge.



Argyrosomus is a silvery to bronze-green coloured fish, a member of the Sciaenidae family, which may grow up to 2m in length. It is also known as mulloway or jewfish in Australia.

It was there that the lady Mulloways liked to gather at various seasons of the year, and here, possibly between knitting sessions and book-club readings, in season, they released their roe.

It is, perhaps best that we draw a discreet curtain over what then eventuates, as the clouds of fish eggs ooze into the current, and Argyrosomus swims blithely to meet them.

Sufficient to say that though he found the actual insemination of the roe enjoyable, he always returned later to his galley a little weary, with a slight sense of guilt amid the satisfaction.

But even a sense of guilt can be quite pleasant.

So musing, he settled in his galley, appetite whetted, and waited for the next fisherman, the next burley, the next baits, the next Meals on Reels.

Although they'd never met, and he didn't know it, he was waiting for Billy Montgomery.

Published with the Permission of Mimi Roberts, Little Wobby.

Bushfire Preparation - Rural Fire Service Update

Summer is fast approaching, and with long warm days in the sun, the threat of bushfires is already on our doorstep. As you've seen in the news recently, New South Wales has already been stricken by bushfires with Emergency warnings being given early in the season; even recently we've seen Bushfires on the River at Cobar point. With the increase in early warm temperatures and the state under drought, the official bushfire season for Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai has been brought forward to September 1st.

Do you have your Bush Fire Survival Plan in place? Do you know what a Bush Fire Survival Plan is? Getting ready for the bush fire season is easier than you think. By taking 20 minutes with your family to discuss what you'll do during a fire, you could save their lives, as well as your home.

The Four Simple steps -

- 1. Discuss what to do if a bush fire threatens your home
- 2. Prepare your home and get it ready for bush fire season
- 3. Know the bush fire alert levels
- 4. Keep all the bush fire information numbers, websites and the smartphone app

With all this activity, what is it you can do to prepare for this now? There are five simple things you can do around your home to help prepare in the event of a bushfire:

- 1. Trim overhanging trees and shrubs This can stop the fire spreading to your home.
- 2. Mow grass and remove the cuttings Have a cleared area around your home.
- 3. Remove material that can burn around your home For example Door mats, wood piles, mulch, leaves, paint, outdoor furniture.
- 4. Clear and remove all the debris and leaves from the gutters surrounding your home Burning embers can set your home on fire
- 5. Prepare a sturdy hose or hoses that will reach all around your home- Make sure you've got a reliable source of water.

For more information, please see: https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/resources/bush-fire-survival-plan

If you'd like to talk about your bushfire plan or what this summer could mean, please come to speak with me at the next BCA meeting, or to the Brigade at the Brooklyn Spring Fair.

Tim O'Mahony Captain, Brooklyn Rural Fire Brigade



Announcing

The great Hawkesbury River Shopping Bag Contest

Get ready by buying or making a plain shopping bag and converting it by way of paint or print into a show piece that depicts the beauty of the Hawkesbury River.

Great prizes for both winner and runner up, plus prizes for most colourful, most unusual and juniors under 12 entry.

Bags will be sold or auctioned off after judging and money raised will be used for community benefits.

Entries close at 12 noon on the day of the "Brooklyn Spring Fair", Sunday 23rd September. Winning entries will be announced on that day.

Sponsored by the Brooklyn Community Association to highlight the amazing "Hawkesbury."

For further details phone: Bob Davis 9985 7399

Calling Volunteers - Calling YOU to become involved

Have you considered becoming involved in your community in a more meaningful way and contribute to making a difference in the lives of others? Here's a great way also to enhance your own health and happiness...

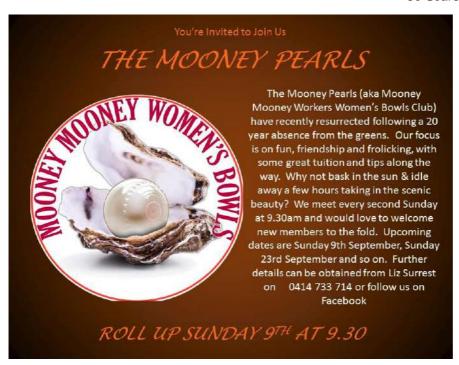
The Kur-ing-Gai Neighbourhood Centre (KNC) has agreed to extend its reach of their supported services to Brooklyn and Dangar Island. KNC already supports the Berowra area. "Calling Volunteers" is a promotion to create a "bank of Volunteers" to be involved in this Volunteer program.

These services are targeted at those Seniors who are frail or may need access to rehab, etc:

- ➤ **Meals on Wheels** the service needs drivers to deliver meals to the frail and elderly for a few hours each month.
- ➤ Easy Care Gardening Do you love the outdoors? the service needs volunteers to help in small friendly teams to create low maintenance gardens for the frail elderly.
- ➤ **Neighbourhood Aid** Help a frail or elder person stay independent. Drivers are needed to provide transport to appointments, shopping and social visits.

An Information and Induction Meeting for Volunteers will be held at the Meeting Room, Brooklyn Medical Centre towards the beginning of October 2018. Please register your interest in becoming a Volunteer with:

Jo Scarsbrick 0414 240 342 Vicki 02 9985 7177





Kevin Cooper will be working alongside Caelia Collins over the next few months as part of the Riverfront team. Caelia's warm personality, boundless enthusiasm, and exciting new promotional ideas will ensure your property is sold in a timely and professional manner and at full market price.

Caelia Collins Kevin Cooper 0439 647 777 0413 540 112

Coba Point Fire Incident

A recent fire at Coba Point highlights the cooperation between our local emergency service organisations: The following are excerpts from reports by Marine Rescue and RFS.

Marine Rescue

On Saturday 18th August, a call was received from NSW Regional Operations, tasking the crew of Hawkesbury 22 to go immediately to the aid of the Rural Fire Service fighting a bush fire at Coba Point. Soon after, Hawkesbury 22, together with Hawkesbury 21 and Broken Bay Water Police, were off to Coba Point at high speed, where Helicopters and RFS Units were tackling the blaze.

The two Marine Rescue vessels were joined by the larger vessel Cottage Point 31, as crews and equipment were moved around the water access only properties under risk, well into the evening. The Hawkesbury Unit Commander, Peter Moore, headed up a relief crew to keep Hawkesbury 21 out on the water to help the fire crews. The crew rendered medical evacuation to 3 RFS members, 2 of which were suffering mild hypothermia, and one suffering back pain. The Marine Rescue Hawkesbury base has crew trained for night operations just for this type of tasking.

On early Sunday morning the Rescue Vessels were back in Berowra and at the disposal of the RFS. The operation continued taking fresh crews and equipment up to Coba Point and bringing tired and weary crews back to the Berowra Waters RFS Base. The two Hawkesbury vessels were again joined by colleagues on Cottage Point 30 to keep the effort continuing through the morning. The unit was stood down in the afternoon after great thanks and appreciation from fire command.

From a media report by Jamie Abnett-Miller Marine Rescue NSW Hawkesbury Unit

Brooklyn Rural Fire Service

Brooklyn and Berowra Waters RFS, supported by Arcadia RFS crews, were on the ground at Coba Point from Saturday to the middle of Sunday. Brooklyn was part of the first response and provided firefighting and property protection. Brad Townsend and others spent all night on the fire ground working with both residents and crews to save houses.

On Sunday, a full force from Brooklyn, Dural, Cherrybrook, Hornsby, Hornsby Heights, Elvina, Wiseman Ferry, Mooney and Dangar RFS Brigades put in a strategic back burn to protect the remaining houses as well to continue to black out the active fire.

From a report by Tim O'Mahony Captain, Brooklyn Rural Fire Brigade







After selling waterfront properties along the Hawkesbury River for more than 40 years, Kevin Cooper is retiring, and has passed the baton for Riverfront Real Estate to Caelia Collins. Caelia lives in Bar Point, and is past President of the Bar Point Community Association. You may also have met Caelia in her role as Manager at the Riverboat Postman, and promoter of the 'River Reasons Festival'.

Kevin said "I have enjoyed selling properties along the river over the last 40 years, and the opportunity to meet so many people who love the river lifestyle as much as I do. I hope to still spend a good deal of time on the river, so please continue to exchange a wave as I go past".

Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Sailing Club spruces up for 50th Season

Work has commenced on a major overhaul of beachside facilities at the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Sailing Club (HKSC) at Brooklyn, with completion slated for the opening of the Club's 50th sailing season in September.

"Construction of our much-loved clubhouse at Dead Horse Beach was started in 1968 - hand built by volunteers who slogged it out brick-by-brick through the winters of those early years to establish a base for youth sailing on the Hawkesbury River" said Graham Brown – past Commodore, and son of HKSC founding Commodore, Jim Brown.

These improvements are long overdue, but possible thanks to the generous support of under the Stronger Communities Fund, a much-needed grant from Coca-Cola, and the backing of parent-organisation Police Communities Youth Clubs (PCYC).

HKSC Commodore Dave Downey said "We've been the grateful recipients of some important financial support over the last few years, and with the huge effort and commitment of our members and their families, we have been able to update our fleet of juniors training boats, and the land-side facilities that we rely on for safe and happy days on the water".

HKSC operates every Saturday between September and Easter, offering a Learn to Sail program for kids aged 7+, and regular racing for youth and adult dinghy and skiff classes. For further information on sailing at HKSC including our upcoming Junior Learn to Sail program commencing in September.....visit our website: www.hornsbysailing.com or find us on Facebook.

Julian Leeser makes a contribution to the beachside facilities



Article by Alex Stewart

Hawkesbury River Yacht Club

For those of you who think that sailing is just a sport for men, then I'd like to inform you that HRYC is not just a boy's club, but encourages the fairer sex as well, with three of our boats having women skippers - and 'slightly' mature ones at that.

The old adage, 'girls just wanna have fun' is certainly true for the women in our club, who are not only there for a good time, but also like to win as well. Libby (our first female commodore), Christie and myself, have been sailing our boats for over six years now, and although it's been a steep learning curve, we relish the enjoyment and challenge that sailing and being on the water gives us. The men in the club have been very supportive of the fairer sex, offering advice and guidance, and we have a long history of women crewing for their husbands - not only in races, but on longer interstate cruises.

The last three months has seen a mix of racing and socialising for us - with the later almost dominating the former due to the vagaries of the autumn and



Star of the Sea, with Christie, Libby and Rob, Line Honours winner of the Crew's Race

winter winds - so much so that our Crew's Race in June morphed into a crew's raft-up. Last week saw a rerun of the Crew's Race, but this time, the wind-gods were kind to us, offering exhilarating conditions. Six of our boats, ranging from 32 foot racers to 52 foot ocean cruisers turned out, and our women skippers not only had fun, but also managed to triumph over the all-male crews on the day.

Once again, HRYC would like to extend a warm welcome to all who are interested in sailing – especially the fairer sex - and invite visitors to join us as guests, crew, or bring their own boats. Find us at http://hryc.asn.au/ or on Facebook or call Cliff on 0425 310 930.



Lee Malone