

As the year comes to a close there are a few things that the Brooklyn community should know about...

Emergency Services Meeting.

A Meeting was held on November 28, 2006 with the NSW Police, NSW Bush Fire Brigade, the SES Area Command, Hornsby Council, the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol, River Rescue, the Brooklyn Community Health Centre and the Brooklyn Rate Payers Association to explore the need for a coordinated emergency plan for bushfires and natural disasters in Brooklyn and our surrounding settlements. Residents will be kept informed as the planning progresses as we will all have important parts to play in preparing and implementing our response to these types of emergencies.

Police Presence in Brooklyn

We thank our two Police Officers, Leading Senior Constable Mark Formston and Leading Senior Constable Kevin Comber for vital presence in our community and their assistance during the year. Area Command has indicated the Police's willingness to become more involved in Brooklyn in the future. We wish them a safe and happy holiday season.

Water Board and Sewerage

Dry weather has enabled Sydney Water to almost complete the initial connection to homes much earlier than anticipated. They have successfully installed the connecting riverbed pipe to Dangar Island and are proceeding with the home connections. Very little disruption has occurred in Brooklyn and their courteous and pleasant manner has impressed all residents. Sydney Water has likewise complimented us on the generous cooperation, friendliness and good will their workers have experienced while working here in Brooklyn. Further discussions regarding the issue of the Australian Standards applying to gravity fed terracotta pipes will continue next year.

Judy Hopwood MP has raised questions in State Parliament on this issue which affects many of our older homes in Brooklyn.

The Public Swimming Pool

Hornsby Council agreed to repair the pool in the interest of public safety and to date Council has raked the pool floor removing all rubbish. Ladders, depth markers and signs have been repaired and the sea wall has been partially repaired. The pool's steps are still a disaster and the removal of oyster growth on the surrounding bars and columns remains a safety issue that the Council must deal with in the very near future. It has taken 18 months of discussion with Council to get this far and it would be nice to think that the safety of Brooklyn residents will spur Council to early action before another person is seriously injured using this important community facility.

Pontoons at the Swimming Pool and Parsley Bay

Happily the repairs have been completed by Council.

The Niche Wall at the Brooklyn Cemetery

Our little cemetery just ran out of room to accommodate any more river residents and to address this problem a memorial wall was proposed to house the ashes of our dearly departed. Plans to build a granite niche wall are well underway with completion due in February 2007. A covered weather awning and a landscaped service area with seating is being included.

Front Door to Brooklyn

The roadside along the Pacific Highway from Kangaroo Point to the cemetery has cleared of all undergrowth, improving the view as residents and visitors approach Brooklyn. Judy Hopwood approached the Minister for Roads in August and the Department's prompt action in making this improvement is appreciated. Further clearing by Council has been approved and will be done shortly. We have asked for mulch and plants at the front entrance to Brooklyn as it is in dire need of a face lift.

Departmental Council Meetings

Department managers and staff have agreed to meet in Brooklyn in the new year for a one to one discussion on future planning and general maintenance priorities. This would be instead of being part of the Council's open forum meeting held in

Galston which is difficult if not impossible for many residents to attend. We hope this will solve some of the lack of interdepartmental communication prior to work in Brooklyn which has been a problem in the past.

Dangar Island League

An invitation to attend the League's general meeting in December was most welcome and Brooklyn will reciprocate next year. Communication with neighbouring groups is healthy and essential to the improvement of conditions along the river for all residents.

Sullage

Council will cease their involvement in sullage removal in Brooklyn at the end of the month. They urge users to contact the contractor of their choice to remove effluent from January 1, 2007 until sewerage commences, not a hard decision, considering its between Staples, Premier and Staples Nowra. Council has agreed to obtain the lowest possible quote from other contractors to desludge all the Brooklyn and Dangar Island septic and pump out tanks at point of sewerage connection, a lower figure than we might individually negotiate.

Judy Hopwood MP

We take this opportunity to once again thank Judy and her staff for the help and support she has given to our community over the past year. Judy has been a stalwart friend to Brooklyn and has represented our interests with a strong voice and dogged determination. We hope she gets a well deserved Christmas break.

Brooklyn Tennis Club

WE DON'T HAVE ONE! BUT WE HAVE THE TENNIS COURTS SO WHY NOT?

We ask for all past and budding champions to find your racquets and in the interest of fun and fitness take up tennis. This one community resource is seriously under utilised. A hit and giggle can be a lot of fun and a good way to start. As the holidays arrive all ages, children to seniors could surely enjoy a day, early evening or weekend game. Perhaps even competitions with neighbouring river communities can be set up.

Is there someone in our community who would be interested in organise this?

Brooklyn Rate Payers Meeting Place

Over the last four years meetings have been held at the Kindergarten Hall. KU Kindergarten has generously allowed us the use of there premises, however, hauling chairs prior to and after meetings from the Seniors Hall has been a challenge. (Thanks to Bob Davis with his trailer it was at least possible). So far our requests for the use of the Community Health Centre Hall have not been successful. In searching a bit further afield we have found an alternative. Allan Slater, Principal, Brooklyn Public School has very generously granted us permission for the Brooklyn Rate Payers to use the school library or outdoor area with seating for all future meetings. On behalf of the community, thank you Allan. Now there will be no excuse for residents not to attend the Rate Payers meetings.

MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR CALENDAR NOW!!!

**THE BROOKLYN RATE PAYERS NEXT GENERAL MEETING WILL BE
SATURDAY MORNING
10TH FEBRUARY 2007
10-00AM TO NOON
AT OUR NEW MEETING LOCATION....
BROOKLYN PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARY**

We have invited the Mayor and A Ward Councillors to our first general meeting of the year. After four years of pleading, the Mayor says "they are ready to listen" so **PLEASE BE INVOLVED**. Come with your ideas and complaints, especially the little things that have been driving you mad. Unsafe road traffic, the lack of footpaths, public parking, water access, the lack of progress on building a community hall, our oyster shell encrusted pool just to name of few of the unresolved issues. If any of these matter to you. **COUNCIL NEEDS TO HEAR IT.**

The Committee wishes you all a safe and happy Christmas and holiday season.