

Gateway

Newsletter of the Brooklyn Community Association, Inc

December 2007

BROOKLYN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION'S NEXT MEETING ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15TH, 10AM TO NOON, AT THE BROOKLYN SCHOOL FOLLOWED BY A FREE CHRISTMAS SAUSAGE SIZZLE IN THE PARK.

Our guest speaker will be **John Mitchell, Brooklyn's TV antenna specialist**, explaining about black spots, satellites and what can be done to get the best TV and radio reception in Brooklyn. Also at the meeting and at the Christmas Sausage Sizzle afterwards, **Rob Moxham, local oysterman**, will talk about the oyster industry cleanup and how the industry is making a very promising comeback. **Everyone is invited to the meeting and the sausage sizzle afterwards.** Donations of a plate of Christmas biscuits, cakes or whatever to share would be most appreciated. Gold coin donation to help cover costs is optional. **(See articles inside)**

OUR SEWER IS UP AND RUNNING

After decades of waiting, it's finally happened - Brooklyn is now a sewered community. Still a long way from connecting all the households that have signed up for the scheme, our first residents have now severed their ties to pump-out companies and septic tanks.

As residents west of the rail overpass race to meet the deadline of December 20th - the date by which all rectification must be completed in order to have PSP do the final connection from the old system to the new (if the distance between the old and new is less than six meters away), PSP is continuing to install new tanks and make final connections for those diligent residents who have their new tank in place and rectification finished and passed by the Sydney Water plumbing inspector.

Residents who have not completed their rectification work and had it inspected and approved by a Sydney Water plumbing inspector by December 20th could be up for as much as \$500 extra on their final plumber's bill, a fairly gloomy thought as we approach Christmas time.

Decommissioning of tanks is the next step once you are connected to the sewer. This involves a pump-out and desludge, that is, removing the solids, an application of lime and breaking in the bottom and sides for concrete tanks. All plastic tanks must be removed and they apparently can be sold on to other communities. No-Fuss, 0405 682 020, Steve Utley, gave a new price of \$350 to any Brooklyn household for a pump-out and desludge of a tank, based on doing multiple properties on the same day. Liming the tank is free. If

you have a two tank system get a final pump-out done (if you are on pump-out) or Steve can pump-out the liquids tank for \$250 on a Saturday. Owners of bio-treatment systems are charged \$120 per 1,000lt.

Transpacific Industrial Solutions, the contractor to our sewage treatment plant, also expressed interest in working with the Brooklyn community on decommissioning. Phone Steve Spratley, 8723 6700.

It is expensive to use your old septic tank for a stormwater tank collection because Council requires annual inspection of reused septic tanks, about \$200 a year and you need to build an absorption trench if you don't have one already.

Council rebates are available to residents interested in installing rain water tanks on their property. You must attend the relevant workshops in 2008 to qualify and sign up for energy and conservation evaluation. All this could save you many hundreds of dollars in the years to come.

Crocodile Excavations is an excavation company working in the area to provide decommissioning assistance, in particular destroying the concrete tanks and filling suitable dirt back into the hole that's left. They can be reached though Dave Penno, 0427 055 016.

With all aspect of sewerage connection, you will want to discuss the prices with your potential suppliers before you make your choice. For more information, contact Liz White at:

Brooklyn and Dangar Island Sewerage Scheme, 1800 006 326 or 9985 5295.

Footpath Progress

One of the problem sections along Brooklyn Road is our own Heartbreak Hill, the paved but very steep section opposite Baden Powell Ave towards James Road - not a problem for the fit and agile but some of our older residents find it a challenge. To avoid the climb they cross Brooklyn Rd to walk on the grass.

This stretch of Brooklyn Road was included in the 2008-2009 budget for paving but after representation to Council, the Works Department is looking to bring it forward to this year's budget and cancelling the intended footpath in the 2007-2008 budget in front of the playing fields, something the resident's at the last BCA meeting felt was counter-productive to the community and the users of the playing field.

Council has been asked to look at the installation of 90 degree parking signs at the oval to keep parking there a little more orderly, especially during games. The possibility of altering the location and angle of the many chevron signs to give pedestrians a little more room to move by them safely is also under review. All are steps towards a safer Brooklyn.

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opening hours: mon: 11-6:30pm wed-sun: 10:30 - 6:30pm

Brooklyn Oyster Industry Rebirth

Rob Moxham will talk at the BCA meeting on December 15th about the past and present of the oyster industry in Brooklyn. Today, tarred sticks are a thing of the past and spats come from Tasmania.

Three years ago the Hawkesbury Sydney Rock oysters died of QX disease. Come find out what happened and what is being done to resurrect this 100 year old industry. Rob will have displays and samples at the sausage sizzle in the Park after the meeting.

Stream Watch Activities

Streamwatch is a school and community education and action program that raises awareness of the natural environment through testing water quality in local rivers and streams. The program empowers groups to protect the health of local waterways through their involvement in water quality monitoring.

Streamwatch groups (primary school, high school and community) are trained by their Regional Coordinator to use the Streamwatch kit to monitor the water quality regularly and upload their testing results onto the Streamwatch website. Results outside the norm are investigated and reported upon.

Brooklyn volunteers monitor the surrounding waters once a month and we are looking for more volunteers. By joining us you will become part of this expanding network of people who are working together for healthy waterways. Please contact either Dierdre 02 9985 8586 or Karen 9985 8425. Further information can be found on the website - www.streamwatch.org.au

Petition for Access Subway to Rail Station Platform Takes Off

A small group of community volunteers have taken the challenge to change unsatisfactory rail steps into a subway most seriously. Pat Brown, Doug Russell, Tom Montgomery, Jane Cole, along with other residents are organising people to get signatures of commuters using Hawkesbury River Station.

The bottom line is they need more volunteers to circulate our petitions so more signatures can be sent to Judy Hopwood to keep this issue alive in Parliament. We also need to spread our net more widely to businesses in the surrounding areas, to tourist visiting our beautiful Brooklyn and to individual households. **No one in Brooklyn who hopes to grow old here should ignore this issue.**

Copies of the petition for you to print off and take to work are available from Mathilde by phone 9985 8545 or email kearnykibble@ozemail.com.au. When you fill a sheet with signatures, just mail the sheet to Judy Hopwood. The address is on the bottom of the petition. Phone Pat Brown, 9985 8105 to join the determined group of volunteers that do not want bad rail steps replaced with just more steps.

Brooklyn Rugby Club

Nigel "Noddy" O'Donnel
Events Promotion Officer
Rear 5 Bridge Street

H - 9985 7258

Bendigo Bank

Berowra and District Community Branch

Phone 9456 2265

Or call in at Turner Road, Berowra

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WOOD DUCK UPDATE

Many people have expressed concern about the male Wood Duck living around Parsley Bay whose feet had become tangled in fishing line. Despite the best efforts of a number of caring citizens to help him, he managed to evade capture and, miraculously, has avoided the fate that usually sees the end of such entangled birds.

"Woody" found a mate during late winter but lost both of his feet. Unbelievably he has remained in good condition and he and his wife have successfully raised a family of four (at last count) ducklings to 3/4 size. He hobbles around on the remaining stumps and he and the family are now residing around the pool at Lower McKell Park.

What may appear as simply a human (or rather duck) interest story really brings to mind the many birds and other animals that are not as fortunate. Carelessly discarded fishing line, even just the off cuts, can cause significant harm to our wildlife. As we move into summer think about chucking any fishing line you see lying around into the nearest bin.

**DIANE ROBERTSON
BOWEN THERAPIST
9482 2922 or 0414 457 718**

**4 Bridge St, Brooklyn
or
Suite 4A Willander Court
151-153 Pacific Hwy, Hornsby**

Member of the **BOWEN THERAPY ACADEMY OF AUSTRALIA**

2008 Membership Fee Payable Now

For \$5 your household can belong to the Brooklyn Community Association. You may ask, *"Why should I? The sewer is going in and what else is there to think about?"*

Well, actually, there are many issues that we still face as a community and government, NSW and Hornsby Council, will only listen to an organisation that represents the community. Consider:

- Pedestrian safety along Brooklyn Road
- The on-going maintenance of the pool
- Opposing the sale of community land to developers
- Addressing the lack of youth service for our young residents
- A place to go for activities in Brooklyn
- Preserving our Health Centre and improving its services
- Managing tourism with the needs of people living here

These are just a few issues. Phone Mal 9985 7640 to join or meet him at the BCA meeting and sausage sizzle afterwards.

Wes Matthews Plumbing

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0416 117 207
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See Something, Say Something

Following the last meeting of the Brooklyn community Association where complaints were made about street racing on the Pacific Highway at Brooklyn Road, a letter was sent to Judy Hopwood asking for her help. Following her question in Parliament and the response that came back from the Police, it became clear that no incident of street racing or hooning had ever been reported to the NSW Police!

On a previous occasion Mark Formston and Kevin Comber explained to the community that if we see something amiss we need to report it to the Police. If this happens, the issue gets logged, it can be investigated and resources can be assigned to our area to solve the problem and possibly prevent it from happening again.

However, no report, no investigation, no resources, no solution. Officially, Brooklyn doesn't have street racing.

If you see or hear something, SAY SOMETHING. Phone the Police on 9985 7444 or 0413 279 726 to report suspicious or illegal activities.

Help keep your community safe.

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0422 244 959, mandysaud@hotmail.com

Brooklyn Community Health Centre needs help...

BCHC arranges help for residents to get where they need to go but, in order to do this, it needs volunteers to drive residents to doctor's visits, and volunteers to pickup residents and to serve at the Senior's Companion Club lunch, at noon on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the BCHC. The lunch cost \$8 and Brooklyn residents are welcome to attend.

A mileage allowance to cover petrol costs is available for the drivers . If you can help or if you want to come to the lunch, please contact Jennie 9985 7717.

JJ's

8 Dangar St,
phone 9985 7106, mobile 0413 050 861
Open 7am - 8pm Monday thru Thursday

Joshua's

5 Bridge St
Phone 9985 7877
Open Thursday: lunch & dinner
Friday, Saturday & Sunday: breakfast, lunch, dinner

TENNIS ANYONE?

Come out of winter hibernation and put on your tennis shoes, sneakers or even your joggers and join the Brooklyn Tennis Club for a hit at the tennis courts on Baden Powell Ave.

No, you don't have to be a good player. Players of all levels are welcome. Bring a cold drink, some nibbles, a tennis racket and a willing spirit.

The Brooklyn Tennis Club is growing and needs more players. Tennis has been quiet during winter, but raring to go in summer and the new year.

Weekdays:

Wednesdays, 10am - 12 noon

Sundays:

Sunday, 6 January, 2pm - 5pm

Sunday, 20 January, 2pm - 5pm

Sunday, 3 February, 2pm - 5pm

Balls, tea and coffee provided. Let Robert know by phone or email if you plan to come along.

Enquiries: Robert Arnold

Bus hours: 0418 404 902

After hours: 9985 8425

Email: ararnold@iinet.net.au

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IGA Benefits Local Community

Many shoppers at IGA know about the donation made by the grocery store to community groups but others may not. IGA has generously agreed to donate a small proportion of each purchase to a nominated community organisation, including sporting groups, charities and Brooklyn Public School. It is a simple thing for you to do to benefit your community and takes just a minute. Shoppers fill out a form to nominate the organisation they wish to receive a donation based on their purchase. A Community card is then given to the shopper and when you go through the check out, your cashier will ask for your Community Card which is scanned and it's done. What may seem like a small amount adds up if everyone does it. It can be a big help for some groups.

A list of beneficial organisations are listed at the front of IGA. Check to see which organisation you would like to support and give a little back to Brooklyn every time you shop at IGA.

NEED A LIBRARY...

The residents of Brooklyn have been extended an offer to use the new Mooney Mooney Community Library by the Mooney-Cheero Progress Association in an act of neighbourly thoughtfulness.

The Library is part of that community's efforts to make good use of a particularly lovely and historically significant building and is supported by Gosford City Council Library Service. Having opened its doors in September in the Old Mooney Public School at 119 Point Road, Mooney Mooney, the library is being operated by volunteers in that community and anyone interested in helping or just loves books would surely be welcomed. Contact Alan Barrett, 9985 1364.

Besides containing about 1,000 books for all ages and over 100 large print books, the library has black and white photocopying and printing, scanning, a computer with *Microsoft Office* and a broadband connection. Donations are being sought, particularly DVD's, service manuals for outboard motors and car manuals. These can be dropped off at the Library during opening hours.

Open hours are Tuesday 3pm to 7pm, Thursday 9am to 1pm and Saturday 9am to noon.

From the advertisers in the Brooklyn Community Association Gateway Newsletter and the Committee

**Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas,
Happy New Year and
a Joyous festive season.**

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