

A Report from the Community Hall Committee - Liz Surrent

As a result of a recent article that appeared in the Bush Tele, representatives of the Hall Committee presented at last week's Council meeting. In a nutshell, it was reported that Council wanted to use funds from other community hall accounts in the Shire to build a hall for us. This apparently was not the intention of Council when Community Services was asked to explore funding options and we certainly understand why the idea failed. If the money was forthcoming and used as collateral for a bank loan to build a hall, there was no clear way we could see to make the loan repayments. As much as we appreciate it, Anna and I know how hard it is to volunteer time and raise funds, and we would not want that hard earned money taken away from Brooklyn to be used in other areas.

On numerous occasions we have spoken at Council asking them to implement paid parking for **out of Shire** residents using the boat ramp at Parsley Bay. This is a valuable Shire asset and the user pay principle is more than reasonable and is successfully applied in many waterside communities throughout NSW. If this scheme had been implemented when we first suggested it 18 months ago, Council would have had well in excess of \$375,000 by now based on a survey done by the Hall Committee of out of Shire vehicles using Parsley Bay in a non-peak period.

This revenue source would easily support a bank loan for building Brooklyn's hall. Other communities support their hall largely from Section 94 funds (developer contributions) but this funding source, depending on substantial development, is limited in Brooklyn.

Our school children have nowhere to conduct their daily after-school activities and Brooklyn's need for a community hall is critical. If you agree and can lend a hand, please phone 9985 7350.

The next FireWize Information Day will be at Brooklyn Fire Station on Sunday the 18th May . Contact Steve Hayes, hayesstevecathie@gmail.com

Tennis for Everyone

Exercise and good company guaranteed for anyone putting on sneakers to join the Brooklyn Tennis Club for a hit at the courts on Baden Powell Ave.

No, you don't have to be a good player - 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. Try it out.

Wednesday, 10am - 12 noon

Sundays:

March 30th 3pm

April 13th, 3pm; April 27th, 3pm

May 11th, 2pm; May 25th, 2pm

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@inet.net.au

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To be held the last Sunday of each month at the Mooney Mooney Club, the first market will be on Sunday, March 30th, from 9am to 2pm. Featuring food,

Fire Hazard Reduction

The Rural Fire Service has authority to order all property owners to conduct essential hazard reductions to protect homes and structures from bushfire - if it's your property, it's your fuel .

Agencies such as National Parks, State Rail, State Forests and local councils reduce hazards on their property according to the strategies in the Bush Fire Management Committee's risk plans. If hazards are not reduced, the RFS can issue a notice for it to be done.

The RFS offers advice and assistance to ensure that reduction activities are carried out effectively. Volunteers work with private landholders and other agencies to do hazard reduction. For help with fire hazard reduction, contact the Hornsby District Fire Office 9485 5000.

2008 Membership Fee Payable Now

For \$5 annually your household can belong to the Brooklyn Community Association. Phone Mal McDowell on 9985 7640 to join or meet him at the upcoming meetings. Success comes from a community working together and more needs to be done to make Brooklyn a better place to live.

For information by email, send your address and details to kearnykibble@ozemail.com.au.

Gateway

Newsletter of the Brooklyn Community Association, Inc

March 2008

Rail Steps-Community's Biggest Problem

Dear Mrs Graham,

I refer to your correspondence received by the Minister for Transport regarding Hawkesbury River Station. The Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf.

Hawkesbury River Station is to undergo a \$1.3 million upgrade to replace the existing stairs. A close examination of the existing stairs was conducted by RailCorp in response to feedback from local commuters who, as you are aware, found the stairs difficult to use as they were steep and uneven. The examination identified no issues in relation to the structural integrity of the stairs, however, it was determined that the stairs should be replaced to address the safety risk posed by the existing geometry.

I am advised by RailCorp that the current upgrade proposal was solely designed with the intention of providing an immediate enhancement to safety.

Planning for the new set of stairs has already begun and the concept design stage has already been completed. Work is scheduled to commence in mid-2008 and is expected to be completed in late 2008.

RailCorp is well aware of the desire among local residents for a full accessibility upgrade to Hawkesbury River Station. You can be assured, when funding priorities are next being considered your requests will be taken into consideration, along with the requests of other rail commuters.

You may be aware that all CityRail stations now have a portable platform ramp which can assist passengers (including those who use wheelchairs or electric mobility scooters) to board or alight from a train safely. If you require boarding assistance, arrangements will need to be put in place at the departure station to advise staff of your travel plans, so they can be ready to assist. People requiring this service will need to arrive at the station 15 minutes prior to the train departure time.

Alternatively this service can be accessed by notifying the guard located on the train. The guard's compartment on a train is marked by a blue light.

A platform levelling program is also underway to make station platforms safer for parents with strollers or people in wheelchairs.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Sonia Hornery MP
Parliamentary Secretary for Transport



This letter was recently received by Anne Graham, Past President of the Brooklyn Community Association, Inc in response to her letter of a year ago read by Judy Hopwood into the Parliamentary record and forwarded on to the Minister of Transport for response. This letter demonstrates that the Department of Transport has not grasped the issues faced by Brooklyn and river residents.

The BCA questions what physically impaired visitors and residents, or parents with young children and strollers will do to leave the platform having arrived at the station and used the portable platform ramp to safely alight from the train, - other than taking the next train to somewhere else.

Anne and her late husband Bill encouraged State Rail to prepare plans for a subway to Hawkesbury River Station platform which was to be implemented except Sydney was chosen as the next Olympic city and all funds were diverted to Olympic related projects. Now, 13 years later we are fighting for what was to happen in 1995.

Brooklyn Community Association Meetings April 7th & 19th

The next meeting of the Brooklyn Community Association is **Monday evening, April 7th, 6pm to 7pm at the Brooklyn Public School**. This will be our last meeting at the school as the school is no longer comfortable about having us meet there.

For members of the community who find evening meetings difficult, **the Monday general meeting will be adjourned at 7pm, with everything covered, and resumed on Saturday morning, April 19th, 10am to noon**, this being the date set at the beginning of this term, where we will cover the business of the meeting again. This meeting will be convened at the post box in front of the oval. We hope to be able to use the tennis shelter. Some chairs will be provided but if you are able, can you bring your own chair and umbrella in case of rain.

Awkward, I know and a short term solution to our dilemma. We are looking at other options for the AGM scheduled for Saturday, July 19th, 10am.

Nostalgia Morning Tea

If you have a desire to recall the days of old or if you are interested in learning what were the familiar icons of days gone by in Sydney, come along to the morning tea on Wednesday, April 16th, 10:30 am to 11:30am at the Brooklyn Community Health Centre. Hosted by Bob Davis and Tom Richmond, our two best known local historians and co-sponsored by the Senior's Association, the event is free and "bringing a plate" is optional. This is a 'must do' for anyone who can recall the earlier in Australia.

Bob and Tom's walk down memory lane will feature newsreels, radio, songs from the 40s and 50s. Bring the grandchildren and enjoy the fun.

Carol Verhoeven, *Fitnology* registered fitness instructor
Classes in fitness training, kick boxing and pilates
Brooklyn Community Health Centre
Thurs & Fri: 9:30 - fitness & kickboxing; 10:30 - pilates
\$15 -1 hour session, \$65-5 sessions, \$120-10 sessions
Phone 0401 057 828 for information & reservations

What you can do to help police in tracking down offenders

Police often get information from the public and from groups about suspect behaviour or an actual crime that has either just happened or is happening then and there. Police get great info about what the offender looked like, what they are wearing, how many there are and the type or colour of the car. Few reports actually have the car's registration number. It is difficult in a high stress situation to focus on a rego plate. But having a command that is 420sq km's police aren't always around the corner to find the blue car with three people on board. That rego number is very important. It gives them details to learn if the car is stolen and if it is not stolen then the police have a good chance of matching the owner to a description you give them or in some cases eliminating them. If the car is stolen all is not lost police can fingerprint the car.

Here are some helpful hints that you may want to use if you do see a suspect car or a crime occurring. If you're in the garden, write the rego number in the dirt then go to the phone. Put the number in your mobile or use your mobile to take a photo. Use a rock or other hard item and scratch the number on the gutter or on your driveway. If you have a pen write the number on your arm. This saves you having to repeat a rego number 10 times to remember it before you ring the police. The RTA does issue all different plate colours and types so try to see if it's NSW or Qld etc and describe the colour or arrangement of the letters and numbers.

But please don't put yourself in a position of danger. All the information given to Police is confidential and is not disclosed to any other person. For more information contact Paul CLEARY Senior Constable, Crime Prevention Officer Hornsby 9476-9723

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Or call in at Turner Road, Berowra

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Brooklyn Remembers ANZAC

The local Sub-Branch is holding its Annual ANZAC DAY Commemoration at the Brooklyn Oval at 4pm, on Sunday, April 13th. This year we are hoping to get good community support by encouraging locals (especially the kids) to wear their dad's, grand-dad's or great-grand dad's service medals and join the parade behind the Diggers for the short march to the War Memorial. The Army Cadet unit from Normanhurst will join the flag bearers and veterans in this moving ceremony.

All are welcome and anyone can lay a wreath on the Memorial in honour of family members who have served their country. The Commemoration Service runs for around half an hour. You might want to make it a family occasion by bringing along a picnic lunch or dinner, or just afternoon tea.

Don Rowe (RSL State President) along with Phillip Ruddock, Nick Berman, Judy Hopwood and other VIP's are attending so it'll be something special for Brooklyn.

JJ's
8 Dangar St,
phone 9985 7106, mobile 0413 050 861
Open 7am to 8pm Monday thru Thursday;
7am to 9pm Friday, Saturday and Sunday
Joshua's
5 Bridge St
Phone 9985 7877
Open Thursday: for lunch & dinner;
Friday, Saturday, Sunday
for breakfast, lunch, dinner

Connection Update

Property works continue in Brooklyn and crews have also been re-established on Dangar Island to start connecting properties there. Brooklyn connections are at 59% which is a really good result, however there are still properties dragging the chain. We encourage anyone who has had the PSP equipment installed on their property to connect as soon as possible so that the environmental benefits of the scheme can be achieved for the whole of the community.

It is important that you notify Sydney Water before your plumber makes your connection to the sewer as not every property has a pump installed inside the collection tank. Please try to provide at least 5 days notice so that Sydney water can arrange to return to your property, install the pump and make sure your electricals are switched on and ready to go.

The next Sydney Water community newsletter will be distributed in the next few weeks. Keep an eye out for it as there are some important messages that should be noted. If you need assistance, please phone Liz White on the free community information line 1800 006 326.

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

REPORT ON TOUCH FOOTBALL GALA DAY – 16TH MARCH 2008

The Brooklyn Rugby Club organised a community fun day for the people of Brooklyn, Mooney and Cheero, with the main entertainment being the Inaugural Touch Footy Competition. Club members manned the BBQ, sold drinks and ran a tombola of donated prizes from houseboat holidays to beauty treatments. A mammoth seafood raffle was also run by one of the local identities. Eight teams from the area competed - "You Can't Touch This" – Anglers Rest Hotel Staff and patrons, "Fenwicks Fury" – Fenwicks Marina, "Green Bait Packers" – Brooklyn Bait Shop plus locals, "Sewerage Poo Pumpers" – Staff of the Sewerage Treatment Plant Brooklyn, "Liquid Lightening" – Mooney Mooney Club members and staff, "Brooklyn Soccer Scrubbers" – Brooklyn Soccer Club, "Strike Light Furies" – Brooklyn Rural Fire Service, "Wobby Brothers" – Residents of Wobby Beach, their off-springs and others. After some very competitive games the "Brooklyn Soccer Scrubbers" succumbed to the "Green Bait Packers", winners of a very attractive shield provide by the Berowra & District Bendigo Community Bank.

The youngster showed great skills when invited to play touch footy during the lunch break and had more fun in the tug of war later in the day. The events concluded about 4pm with some of the players sporting very minor injuries and no doubt a lot were stiff on Monday morning. The club raised funds to build a shade cover for the sand pit at the Pre-school and Day Care Centre at Brooklyn. The consensus is that a great day was had by all.