

Gateway

Newsletter of the Brooklyn Community Association Inc

May 2017

President's Report for May 2017

We hope you enjoy this edition of the Gateway, we would like to make it a more interesting newsletter about all the events, people and amazing things in our community. We welcome anyone to contribute to the Gateway by writing poems, history, how you ended up in Brooklyn, and anything you think might be interesting. Make sure you tell us about your events. The next edition will be published in late July so make sure you send your contributions to info@brooklyncommunityassociation.org.au. We are going to be moving our newsletters to electronic forms. If you are not getting the Gateway via email (*and would like to*) please go to our web site at <https://brooklyncommunityassociation.wordpress.com> and select Subscribe under SIGN UP TO OUR NEWSLETTER.

Some exciting news came our way this month. The Council is going to start construction on part 3a of the shared cycleway/footpath! It will continue along 43 to 31 Brooklyn Road. Additionally, in the 2017/18 operational budget there is money budgeted for part 3b going from 29 to 11 Brooklyn Road. The footpath will get close to Seymour's Creek in 2018/19.

At our meeting on 13 May 2017, we will be providing the latest information on the Brooklyn Improvement Masterplan and Peat Island, and Ward A Councillor Nathan Tilbury will be updating us on what is happening at the Council.

- Hornsby Council's Masterplan website update states that "following the community engagement meeting in November 2016, the project consultants McGregor Coxall have been identifying initiatives and opportunities for Brooklyn in consultation with the specialist sub-consultants. The proposed opportunities are currently under consideration and will be presented to the Project Control Group after consultation with key State Government agencies. Upon endorsement, this material would be presented to the Community Reference Group and the next round of community consultation will be notified shortly thereafter". The BCA expects the Masterplan Strategy document to be available around mid-year.
- NSW State Property held a forum at Peat Island to review the approved zoning changes. It is now with the Department of Planning in the Gateway process. More details will be discussed at the BCA meeting and put up on the website.

If you are planning on attending the Hornsby Environment Festival &/or the River Reasons Festival on 3 June 2017, try out the parking and shuttle bus service from Salt Pan Reserve (next to RFS station) to Brooklyn (see Parking later in the Gateway).

Di Bowles, President Brooklyn Community Association

president@brooklyncommunity.org.au

Brooklyn Community Association Meeting

10am-12noon Saturday 13 May 2017

Brooklyn Community Meeting Room

Agenda items:

Nathan Tilbury to update the Community on Council issues,
also Brooklyn Masterplan, Council amalgamation, Peat Island
BCA Members, Guests and Friends welcome

Meeting Dates

for your diary

13 May 2017

12 August 2017

18 November 2017

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.

Peat Island Development

NSW Property held an open forum at the Chapel on 27 April 27, and they will be holding additional community consultation in the future. We will let you know when that's happening. Di Bowles (Brooklyn Community Association), John Andrews (Mooney Cheero Progress Association) and Mark Payne (Bar Point Community Association) also met with Central Coast Council Environment and Planning personnel to discuss plans for Peat Island.

Council provided a list of zones so the Community can understand what choices were made by Property NSW, nominal owners on behalf of the NSW Government. Council suggested that the Community should talk to the NSW Department of Planning, as they had submitted the documents and the development is now formally in the NSW Gateway process. We understand that NSW Planning consult with each government department during the Gateway process and are open to talking to the local community.

NSW Roads & Maritime Services have responsibility for the Peat Island freeway road interchange. The Community is keen for RMS to retain their current location of their storage areas, which are reasonably hidden, rather than moving closer to the riverside, and to move the truck stop to Calga. Community members reiterated the outcomes of the 2011 consultation, that a large service centre for freeway traffic at the interchange was not appropriate. Central Coast Council stated that current zoning at the site allows for both types of centres, either a local centre or a larger service centre.

The Lower Hawkesbury Coalition of Community Associations are working together to press for a more holistic planning process for Peat Island and the Lower Hawkesbury River, to include Central Coast Council, Hornsby Council, Brooklyn Masterplan consultants, NSW State Property, NSW Planning Department, State Rail and people responsible for the Port (Brooklyn) strategy. Schooling facilities, rail transportation, commuter berthing and commuter parking all need to be addressed on an area-wide basis. The Community is still awaiting communication from Matt Kean's office (MP Hornsby) regarding a meeting with Rod Simpson, Environment Commissioner for the Greater Sydney Commission to press this point.

Community Cohesion- what does that have to do with me?

By Jo Scarsbrick

Are you looking for the fountain of youth? Maybe it has been staring us in the face all the time - maybe, just maybe, we have been carrying an untapped "fountain of youth" with us all the time...

What is one of the primary reasons our human cells grow old? **Shortening telomeres.** What are telomeres?

They are the tips on the end of our chromosomes, like shoelace tips. Chromosomes are the structures inside our cells that carry our genetic information - on the end of each chromosome is this little "tip". These little tips divide and shorten as the years roll by.

Age	Telomere Length (in Pairs)
New born baby	10,000 pairs
35 years old	7,500 pairs
65 year old	4,800 pairs

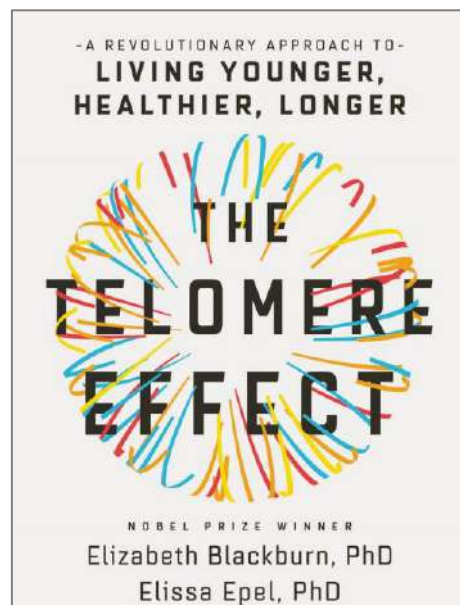
So how can we halt the progression of the shortening of telomeres?

Indeed can we? Is it in our control? We are told if we do the 'right thing' we may remain healthier longer- you know "everything in moderation..." But it seems it can be 'more fun' than that.

Professor Elizabeth Blackburn, Nobel Prize winner and author of the Telomere Effect emphasises:

"Like the thoughts we think and the food we eat, the factors beyond our skin - our relationships and the neighbourhoods we live in - affect our telomeres...neighbourhoods where we feel safe and look beautiful - with leafy green trees...are related to longer telomeres, no matter what the income and education level of the residents".

So it seems it is up to us to embrace life more fully with: friends, family and community - **its community cohesion** so, let that fountain flow....



Hornsby Shire Environment Festival & Native Plant Giveaway

from Hornsby Council:

<http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/my-lifestyle/events/environment-festival>

The creeks, estuaries and beautiful bushland environment that surround us are what makes living here so special, and you can celebrate it at this year's Hornsby Shire Environment Festival and Native Plant Giveaway.

This year the picnic area of Upper McKell Park in Brooklyn overlooking the picturesque Hawkesbury River is the location to celebrate World Environment Day 2017. World Environment Day is a time to think about the importance of the environment for us all and how we are protecting it for present and future generations. The festival will be jam packed with free activities and information stalls. The event includes Council's free Native Plant Giveaway, so ratepayers from all Hornsby Shire Council suburbs are invited to come and pickup free native plants for their garden (remember your rates notice):

Join in the celebrations on Saturday 3 June between 11am - 2pm.



River Reasons Festival 2017

Showcasing the Hawkesbury River's finest cultural treasures - River Reasons brings together unique clothing, artworks, river inspired food, wine, cider and more!

A celebration of the supremely talented artists, retailers and producers the Hawkesbury and surrounds have to offer. River Reasons is set amidst a backdrop of lower McKell Park's long reaching, tree-lined foreshore. The festival site is rich with history, atmosphere and salty air. Join us on Saturday 3rd June (10am-4pm) for a day of fun the whole family can enjoy!

For all the latest festival announcements - **follow** us on facebook:

www.facebook.com/riverreasons.



Festival Parking & Shuttle Bus Service

Parking in Brooklyn is severely limited at best of times and with two festivals on the same day parking will be difficult!

If you choose to drive, then avoid the hassles and make use of our event parking and shuttle bus service (funded by River Reasons Festival and Hornsby Shire Council). Follow the signs from Brooklyn turn-off to Salt Pan Reserve (next to the RFS station) and take the shuttle bus to Brooklyn (approx. every 10 minutes).

Or instead of driving, consider taking the train to Hawkesbury River Station and making a day of exploring Brooklyn and Dangar Island.



Personal Training Yoga and Fitness in Brooklyn

Jo Scarsbrick Grad. Cert. Yoga Therapy,
Diploma Yoga teaching, PT.; MSc. B. Bus.
Enquiries ring Jo on M: 0414 240 342



THE BROOKLYN DELI is now selling sourdough bread from the famous 'LA TARTINE' bakery! Come in on a Saturday and choose from a classic white or wholemeal or opt for a whole grain, olive or amazing fig, sultana and almond loaf - all are absolutely delicious!

Coming soon to our Winter Menu:

Freshly baked Cornish pasties and hearty Winter soups!
Come in and join us for lunch.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Open Thursday to Monday - 9.00am to 4.00pm
The Brooklyn Deli 212 Brooklyn Road Tel: 02 9985 7291

The 'Cogra Bay Manuscript' *(Memory of a river event 40 years ago)*

by
Ambrose Reisch
January 2017

*Both etchings are all that remain
from my stay
during the mid-1970's on the
Hawkesbury River.*



In the mid 70's I travelled to the Hawkesbury River for the first time. I was an art student studying painting. This experience of the river was, in the first instance, an artistic inspiration. In every way a sensory smorgasbord. But what has shown to be more sustaining for me is that it presented itself as a spiritual paradox. I remember that I saw this river, I smelt it, I tasted its salt. I remember the wind always heading in the other direction. Rowing was always hard work. The shoreline was not a refuge from the restless water but an inhospitable jumble of rocks and boulders, covered with oyster shells like razor wire. It wasn't friendly. The tide was forever receding revealing a muddy archaeology. People didn't lie around on the sand but went out on the water wearing gumboots in flat boats. The river seemed to remain at arms-length and this, with its shards of reality, made it compelling. The river would inspire me to muse about all kinds of things. Anything from the brushwork in a Rembrandt portrait to the first Herman Hesse book I ever read. A year earlier, I was fresh back from 2 years in Firenze/Italy, where I had studied classical drawing in a cultivated landscape of Renaissance architecture and art. Here on the Hawkesbury River the landscape could not have been more extremely different. Different in a positive way. Its primal turbulence became a counterbalance to the refined language of art, and to the poet's contemplative gaze. And all the while, the river ebbed and flowed under the radar.

I would visit Brooklyn to hire a boat and row about in the wind and the water and those dark moody hills. It was on one of these crossings that I noticed a couple of shacks tucked in behind the 'railway bridge headland' in Cogra Bay. The shacks were only metres apart and located slightly up from the rocks and the water line. A poorly maintained track connected them and the rocks below. They seemed deserted and I was inspired. "I could work up there," I thought, and I enquired into their ownership to seek permission, but without success. Overall my stay there was not going to be very long but it would give me a platform to engage the river from 'within its own womb'. In the spirit of my youth I seized the opportunity and returned soon after with food and paper.

I used only a pencil, India ink mixed with shellac, brush and pen. To give body to the drawings a teabag sitting in a small cup of water served as my colour and wash. A hand-held Claude-Mirror provided a tonal aperture onto the landscape. In a more playful way it served also as a subversive device when, every so often, I resorted to splitting the image into multiple spaces. I had a random selection of papers that had been cut down to a manageable size. I also brought with me a few books that were always with me. I am probably more likely to read a writer than to look at a painter. Good writers make you think about what you are looking at.

A swim on arrival served as a baptism, and then I set to drawing. Once I made my first marks, there was a momentum that carried itself. Somewhere between reading the poets and looking out across the water, where Spectacle Island was in clear view, I would orchestrate one drawing after the other that comprised both visual and literary references. The landscape was very dramatic and forever changing. They were long days and I produced a mass of drawings and writings. In those writings, I remember that there were quotations from my favourite writers and poets including Baudelaire, Rilke, Apollinaire, Nietzsche, Thomas Mann and Kafka, Frank O'Hara and Edgar Allan Poe. Each page was contained within a visual schema of Euclidean geometric design. This gave uniformity to the pages which reflected the formality of the scientific order of renaissance thinking. It was during the cinquecento in Italy that the mathematics and philosophies of the classical world re-emerged.



As the drawings were completed, each page in its turn was submerged into the river. Sometimes I would imagine how some of these beautiful words that I had so faithfully copied, would break away at times and go their own way. Breaking from the restraints of the sentence, to float freely as single words and then to divide once more to being individual letters. Floating freely, like plankton, becoming integral in the food chain of the water. One drawing, I recall, had the complete list of all the 'titles of De Chirico's paintings'. I was in awe of this drawing. I carefully placed all these beautiful enigmatic phrases on the paper, and punctuated them, here and there, by small illustrations of rocks, jelly fish, brooding headlands, and eyes that looked out of the landscape from all the literature I was throwing at it. Like a page in a sacred book, I copied them with the dedication of a scribe, dutifully applying his skill in the scriptorium of the rocks. I imagined this page had fallen to the river bed, leaving an imprint of De Chirico's titles forever embedded at the bottom of the river.

Each completed drawing was lowered into the water, until it was fully saturated. This was a very careful process as it became heavier the more it was saturated. Holding the corners with small tabs, I would lift it back out. I would lay one onto the other, making sure that each sheet would bond with the one before. I had dedicated a drawing board close enough to the water's edge as it was too fragile to carry the drawing up to the shack. Then another board was laid on top. This I repeated over a period of several weeks until the height of the pile was significant to suggest a volume like a book.

This was my 'Cogra Bay manuscript'. Buried inside this tome were multiple drawings and hundreds of words. Along the outer margins which were in part loose and non-compliant one would see bits of drawings and random words and phrases that were part of a larger entry. At one of these edges I could just make out the last words of Apollinaire's calligram Il Pleut. Other edges revealed a bit of headland, and teabag washes with ink lines. The small previews along the margin added a sense of enchantment to what was buried inside. It was now a rectangular object and ratty on the edges. The result was a matted slab of paper that sported a decorative edge. It had the same scale and volume as an old 19th century bible I had at home. The matted slab of paper was discoloured and reflected the ambient tidal nature of the river water. One time a jellyfish rubbed up against the paper which was being submerged leaving markings that I could only dream of. Depending on the level of the tide the paper would be more soiled by river mud than other times. Each sheet came alive in the water. Being submerged it became vulnerable; its physicality severely compromised but it was in synergy with the drawings and writings that were buried on the surface. Like faded tattoos they bespoke a history and created their own memory.

When all was done, I took the entire Manuscript and submerged it one last time.

The 'Cogra Bay Manuscript'

(continued)



Muogamarra Nature Reserve

12th August to 17th September 2017

Muogamarra Nature Reserve is open for just six weekends a year to protect its fragile ecosystems and Aboriginal heritage. During the open season, people can visit the reserve as the spring transformation begins and wildflowers put on a spectacular display. Muogamarra is home to many native animals like the iconic echidna, and for birdwatchers there is plenty of birdlife to see. Look up to catch a glimpse of a wedge-tail eagle or a whistling kite and keep an eye ahead for a lyrebird.



Muogamarra offers spectacular views of the Hawkesbury River and Central Coast all the way out to the west. On a clear day you can see to the Blue Mountains. It is an extraordinary natural treasure that offers some of the best views in Sydney and the public have just 12 days a year to take it in.

Opening times are from 9.00am until 4.30pm

Have Your Say on the Future of our local National Parks

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service manages Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, Lion Island Nature Reserve, Spectacle Island Nature Reserve and Long Island Nature Reserve under one plan of management, which sets out future directions for the parks, management actions to be undertaken, and the types of uses that are allowed. NPWS are now starting the process of preparing a new plan of management for these parks, and they want to hear the community's views and ideas.

To find out about the management plan and to register your interest in receiving updates during the preparation process, go to <https://engage.environment.nsw.gov.au/ku-ring-gai-chase-national-park-consultation>.

Brooklyn Bushcare Group

The Hornsby Bushcare program has currently 64 registered Bushcare sites and just over 400 active volunteers. The program has been running since 1989, even though some community minded individuals were working towards weed control in bushland reserve and bushland conservation and promotion in the 1970's and 1980's.

Hornsby Council held the inaugural meeting for the Brooklyn Bushcare group on Thursday 23 February. The first Bushcare event was held on Thursday 23rd March and the second on Thursday 27th April.

The next Bushcare day will be held on 25th May 9:30am to 12:30pm, with Cllr Tilbury present for the 'formal opening'.

The link below will take you to our latest online Bushcare newsletter, including an interesting article on Observatory Park.

<http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/environment/trees-plants-and-bushland/bushcare/bushcare-news>

You can contact Deb Rothwell from Hornsby Council by email on DRothwell@hornsby.nsw.gov.au.

Become a bushcare volunteer today

The local group in your area is looking for new volunteers to join them to help create a better environment for now and the future!

BROOKLYN PARK BUSHCARE GROUP
is welcoming new volunteers

NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

Come and enjoy morning tea and learn all about Bushcare!

Where: Brooklyn Park
When: Thursday 25th May 2017
Time: from 9.30am

To find out more, contact our Bushcare Field Officer 9847 6364 or email bushcare@hornsby.nsw.gov.au

Join us today to create a better environment, call 9847 6362 or visit us online at hornsby.nsw.gov.au/bushcare

HORNSBY
SHIRE COUNCIL

First bushcare day at Brooklyn Park



We were lucky enough to have the rain hold off and have a fabulous and productive day removing Morning Glory. It was encouraging to find so many native plants poking through the Buffalo Grass waiting for us to free them up and give them room to spread, and it was exciting to find a squitter worm in the leaf litter (our first entry for the fauna list).

There was a lot of positive energy and enthusiasm in the team, thank you for efforts, it will be great to watch this patch of bush transform over time.

Thanks to all who attended.

Deb Rothwell

Bushcare Trainer Hornsby Council

Chair Yoga with Jo

Thursday 26th April was the first day of a new yoga class in Brooklyn. Sponsored by the King Tide Restaurant and run by Jo Scarsbrick, our wonderful yoga teacher, these *free* classes are designed for those in the community who are interested in improving their lifestyle but cannot do traditional yoga.

Chair yoga provides an opportunity to improve breathing, pain relief, balance and fitness. This first class was well attended and several participants stayed to enjoy a chat and coffee after the class.

The classes run each Thursday from 10.30 – 11.30 and continue until 29th June.

You can book at the Brooklyn Medical Centre on 02 9985 7717, turn up on the day if you would like to participate, or call Jo on 0414 240 342 for more information.



*Our sprightly nonagenarian ladies
Joy, Heather and Jane*

Photo by Doogie

The Riverboat Postman

After many years working from the back of a truck, the Riverboat Postman has a new home on the Hawkesbury.

Owner Catherine Pignéguay said “We wanted to improve our access for customers as the wharf and the shed were all on the same platform, there was no disabled access on the public wharf and the vast majority of our customers are seniors and some of them are frail, so the development of an accessible wharf for our customers was a necessity.”



Picture: Troy Snook

Catherine said the extended application process caused them to travel more than an hour a day to house the Riverboat and they spent over \$80,000 in fuel over the past five years taking the boat to and from home up the river. That really hurt, being a small business,” she said. “We had to replace the riverboat wharf, which was condemned, as well as the shed, which flooded during king tides, as part of the rejuvenation. But it was all worthwhile when I see what we have now”.

“We are very happy now that it has all been sorted out. I am sitting here with this huge grin on my face, it is amazing. We now have a home and a workplace for our business.”

Come down and say hello and have a look at the cute office with many interesting old post office decorations. And take a cruise on the Riverboat Postman if you haven't done it before.

River Dreams

The River Dreams Shop in Brooklyn has some exciting changes happening. After an almost 7 year partnership, Kate has moved onto new ventures and I will be continuing business as usual. It has been fun and I will miss her and wish her every success.

Over the few weeks you will notice some changes to the decor together with a fashion range for winter including Zebart, Jendi and some new labels. There are lots of warm wraps, scarves and hats in the shop now for the cold mornings and nights.

Call in and have a chat and check out all the new locally produced products including, paintings, jewellery, candles, books, tee-shirts, photographs, cards etc.



Keep dreaming, Linda @ *River Dreams* ❤️

BREAKTHROUGH CHURCH @ BROOKLYN

JOIN US FOR OUR MONTHLY SERVICE
4PM ON THE 4TH SUNDAY
OF EACH MONTH

**PEAT ISLAND CHAPEL
MOONEY MOONEY**

CALL OR TEXT BILL GLOVER FOR MORE DETAILS 0410423908

WWW.BREAKTHROUGHCHURCH.COM.AU

Departs 10am daily
Includes Morning Tea
& Ploughman's Lunch

Bookings essential, pay on the day

THE RIVERBOAT POSTMAN

Gift vouchers available, valid for two years
Perfect for Christmas, birthdays & thank you's
www.riverboatpostman.com.au

Tel: 02 9985 9900 Boat: 0400 600 111