

Gateway

Newsletter of the Brooklyn Community Association Inc November 2018

(Next Issue Feb/March 2019)

President's Report

Well the year has flown by again! We hope you can join us at the upcoming AGM/meeting and celebrate the Christmas season immediately following the meeting. Our special guest is MP Matt Kean who will be providing an update on State issues.

With the Brooklyn Masterplan not going ahead as planned, we are encouraging positive and respectful discussion about the future for Brooklyn. The theme for this issue of the Gateway is Visions for Brooklyn. Brooklyn and the wider community and businesses were invited to submit their ideas for their vision for Brooklyn, as written items, illustrations and cartoons, photographs, etc. Submissions have been published as submitted and are not the position or opinions of the Brooklyn Community Association. What would you like to see happen in the short and long term for our town? We have republished part of the BCA survey in 2016 in which the majority indicated they wanted to keep the quaint village feel of Brooklyn, the wonderful sense of community, improve foreshore access and views, and have no overdevelopment or high rise development.

The vision for Brooklyn is not just a one issue vision. Parking is one of our biggest problems but there are other areas that the residents want to be improved and enhanced. These include activating the cottage to showcase our local artists and to include information about the area's history and walks, a community hall which could be linked with a water sports facility for our three local yachting clubs, dragon boating and kayaking, cleaning up the "CBD" with flower planting and paint, and trying to create a better connection between the marina and the business/shops areas.

If you would like to comment on the ideas or provide your own, please contact info@brooklyncommunity.org.

We would like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season. See you at the Annual General Meeting and Christmas celebration.

Di Bowles, President Brooklyn Community Association

president@brooklyncommunity.org.au

Brooklyn Community Association Annual General Meeting

3pm-5pm Saturday 1 December 2018
Brooklyn Community Meeting Room

3pm Annual General Meeting
followed by Christmas get-together

Special Guest: The Hon. Matt Kean
NSW Member for Hornsby & Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation

BCA Members, Guests and Friends welcome.

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

Meeting Dates 2019

10am Saturday

March
June
September
December

*Dates to be
advised*

Brooklyn Public School Dates

- EOY Concert Thu Dec 6
- Year 6 Farewell Dinner Mon Dec 10
- Presentation Assembly Thu Dec 13
- Picnic Fun Day & Talent Quest Wed Dec 19

Bridge to Bridge Boat Races

- The Bridge to Bridge Ski and Power Boat races will be held on Sunday 25th November.

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.

Tom Montgomery

On 13th November, Brooklyn awoke the poorer for the passing of Tom Montgomery. Tom was one of the most accomplished of Brooklyn's local sons.

Tom was born at Kangaroo Point at the height of the Depression. His grandmother owned the kiosk there and Tom was one of the very few who could remember the mini-golf course and camping area at the Point. He recalled the busy river crossing, with the ferries and wartime convoys. As a pupil at the Brooklyn Public School, he remembered the trenches built for defence against air attack and how the boys made practice realistic by lobbing rocks into the girls' trench.



Tom Montgomery with Tom Richmond at Kangaroo Point

As he grew up, the Montgomery Family left the area and his father became a prominent fishmonger. While continuing his education, Tom worked for his father and became an accomplished hand at oyster opening. It was a mark of the man that Tom could turn his hand to any task, academic or menial.

Few who knew him in later years were aware that Tom was an accomplished musician. He was good enough, in fact, to play in the group that accompanied Frank Sinatra on an Australian tour. Tom's sister, Bonnie, was a professional singer who frequently was heard on the radio in the post-war years. Bonnie moved to America, but Tom stayed in touch with her over the years.

Tom's astute business sense earned him a prominent role with CSR in Canberra. While there, he met and mingled with the great, including politicians such as Menzies. He gradually acquired academic qualifications and began to lecture. It was a job at which he excelled and which he enjoyed immensely. He lectured in the "dark arts" of business and in psychology and related subjects.

His lecturing took him to America and other parts of the world and he was still marking doctorate theses into his seventies. He was a man of great generosity and he contributed massively to service clubs and to the Masonic movement, in which he held high office well into his eighties.

Tom would never use his academic titles because he was content to be one of us. The circle of life brought him back to where he started and he passed away in a house overlooking his birthplace. He was a proud family man and our deepest sympathy is extended to his wife, children and grandchildren.

May he rest in peace.

Tom Richmond OAM

The Late 'Bar Point Barbie'

Years before we had our dedicated and hardworking Marine Rescue team, we had Bar Point Barbie.

Barbie was the voice of our river and a legend. Her role was a radio operator for the Bar Point Base Rescue and those who had a ship to shore radio could call when in trouble. Calls like "we are out of petrol stuck in the mud not sure where we are, but we are sitting on an oyster lease" and many others that were much more serious. Whatever the problem, Barbie was there ready to organise help.

Bev and I had a boat "Mandalay" fitted with a two-way radio and we were in the habit of going up Mullet Creek to Wondabyne for a few days rest and relaxation. Fishing, reading or listening to our favourite taped music away from it all.

It was January 1992 when we decided to go again. There was a slight problem however our daughter, Janice, was expecting her first baby, our first grandchild, so when to leave and when to return needed to be decided. Jan said go ahead go now I will be around for a while yet.

When we arrived at Wondabyne, we found we had lost radio contact with Bar Point possibly because of the distance and high hills. This caused us to change our plans to three days stay rather than four. On our return and in sight of Dangar Island, radio contact resumed. "Mandalay, Mandalay calling Bar Point Base do you read me? over", pause, then Barbie "where the hell have you been? I've been trying to reach you for two days, your daughter has had a baby boy, she is in Hornsby Hospital and is looking for you, over." "Sorry Barbie, we have been up Wondabyne for a few days and lost contact with you, over." "Well stay closer home next time and get yourself cleaned up and straight to the hospital now. Congratulations. Over and out."

That's how we and many other river radio listeners heard the news that Angus Robert Read Whittington had entered our world.

Bob Davis Brooklyn

Hornsby Council Report

Award winners

The Natural Resources branch at Hornsby Shire Council was awarded the Public Sector Leadership Award at the 2018 Green Globe Awards a month ago. The award was received for the work undertaken in collaboration with Manly Hydraulics Laboratory for the monitoring of the Hawkesbury estuary to keep the community updated on current estuarine health and swimming conditions through the Hawkesbury Watch web portal.

We are thrilled about the news!

www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/environment/waterways/hawkesbury-watch



New Hawkesbury Coastal Management Program

Hornsby Shire Council has signed a MoU with our five neighbouring councils managing the Hawkesbury from South Creek upstream to the mouth in order to develop a new management program as per new NSW coastal reforms. This is a very innovative approach to estuary management. Councils involved in the management of Sydney Harbour are taking the same approach. We are looking forward to working with our neighbouring councils and using a whole-of-estuary approach to manage the Hawkesbury estuary. We have applied for funding to undertake a Scoping study, which is the first stage of the Coastal Management Program (CMP). As soon as we have a consultant engaged we will be looking for feedback from the community in regards to values and vision for the Hawkesbury.

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/water/coasts/coastal-management/programs>

*Ana Rubio Environmental Scientist Hornsby Shire Council
e arubio@hornsby.nsw.gov.au |*

Marine Rescue Hawkesbury

Since the start of the boating season Marine Rescue Hawkesbury has been kept on our toes, with everything from special events such as The Brooklyn Spring Fair, the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic October 27th/28th (in which our crews put in a staggering 650 hours total over 2 days) and the upcoming Bridge to Bridge Powerboat/Ski Race 25th November to basic breakdown tows and serious incidents including medical evacuations and capsized vessels with people in the water. As always on top of assisting the public we have continued our training to make sure we are ready when the call comes.

In the past 3 months we have had several of our newer members successfully reach the rating of MR Crew, meaning they no longer need to be supervised on board the vessel and can be operational in any situation.

Recently we were visited by Troy Grant MP, Minister for Police and Emergency Services. We were delighted to show him our base and talk about what we do to support the local community, as well as boaties in general. Unfortunately, the weather was not kind when we took him and Assistant Commissioner Dean Storey for a trip to see the sights of the Hawkesbury - but to both their credit, they came back dripping wet - yet smiling broadly. The Hawkesbury is the place to be whatever the weather!

If anyone is interested in completing their Recreational Boating License please keep an eye on our Facebook page which is regularly updated with details of what we are up to, along with dates for upcoming courses. At this stage we will be running one in the New Year, date to be confirmed.

Jamie Abnett-Miller, PR and Media Officer, Marine Rescue NSW Hawkesbury Unit



Dean Storey Deputy Commissioner of Marine Rescue NSW, Troy Grant MP Minister for Police and Emergency Services and Peter Moore Unit Commander Marine Rescue Hawkesbury

Visions for Brooklyn

The Brooklyn Community Association invited Brooklyn residents and business people to participate in a survey in 2016 to provide input to the Brooklyn Masterplan. The survey was distributed to all Brooklyn mailboxes in paper form, and to residents and businesses on the email contact list in electronic form. We wanted to share these results with you again as we head into the next phase of planning for Brooklyn's future.

Top 5 Responses to each Question

Q1: What do you value about living in Brooklyn and want to retain?

1. Village atmosphere
2. Sense of community
3. Foreshore access/views
4. Bushland & parks
5. No high rise/development

Q2: What does Brooklyn need to make the village better for you?

1. Better transport/rail access
2. More/ better/ changed parking
3. Updated & maintained village centre
4. More services/shops
5. Better public foreshore access

Q3: Over the years, residents, business owners and visitors have expressed concern about parking in Brooklyn. Do you have issues with parking? What changes to parking would you recommend?

1. West of Station with pedestrian tunnel
2. Relocate river resident parking
3. Reduce car parking on foreshore
4. Residents parking permits
5. Fine tune parking times

Q4: To provide information on relative priorities or emphasis, could you please rank the following general principles that are important in developing a new masterplan in order of importance to you.

1. Retaining the low key/low density feel and village atmosphere
2. Retaining the parks, foreshore and open space for public access
3. Better railway access
4. Improving visual appearance of the Station/Harbour/ Marina precinct
5. Improving safety of mixed use vehicle and pedestrian areas

Q5: Are there any other priorities not listed?

1. Improved rail station access
2. Brooklyn Rd improvement
3. Footpath & gutter along Brooklyn Road
4. Prepare for Peat Island
5. Provide community hall facilities

Q6: If you would like to see additional businesses in town, what would they be?

1. Restaurant
2. Local art & crafts Gallery
3. Take away food (after hours)
4. Asian Food
5. Fresh produce

Q7: Is there anything else you would like to add?

1. Capitalise on heritage
2. Maintain village atmosphere
3. No high rise or large scale development
4. Improve Brooklyn Rd
5. Improve maintenance by Hornsby Council

What the Locals say about their Vision for Brooklyn

Q1: What do you value about living in Brooklyn and want to retain?

"The quiet historic river town that has a low density village atmosphere with beautiful river and bushland views and settings."

"Being immersed in the natural environment, surrounded by national parks and nature reserves beside the river."

"Good recreation facilities in McKell Park and the Oval - these spaces need to be retained."

"Brooklyn has huge historical significance that has been largely unrecognised by Hornsby Council."

"The talented artists, musicians we get to hear and take part in."

"I like the small town feel, that there are no supermarkets, that everyone knows everyone, and are willing to help each other out."

"Brooklyn is unique and I don't want it spoiled by uncontrolled and unsympathetic development (turned into suburbia)."

Q2: What does Brooklyn need to make the village better for you?

"The first thing people see when they alight the train is 3 decrepit buildings owned by Hornsby in a state of neglect."

"Completion of the combined footpath/cycleway."

"Opportunities for day tourism have declined in recent decades. A proper cruise terminal would help."

"A ferry service to Central Coast and Berowra and Bobbin Head. A tourist information & cultural central."

"Maintenance of commercial sector, including fishing industry."

"Create seaside village atmosphere on Council properties."

"Clean up the shopping centre by encouraging property owners to invest in new infrastructure."

Q3: Over the years, residents, business owners and visitors have expressed concern about parking in Brooklyn. Do you have issues with parking? What changes to parking would you recommend?

"Reclaim land on the other side of the station and create a carpark there linked by a foot tunnel."

"Adjust parking times to make parking fit for the location and provide access for customers for Brooklyn businesses."

"We need to move the parking away from the foreshore but to also help to provide convenient parking for those that are using the foreshore parking currently."

"Parking out of town with shuttle bus, a parking fee to include bus trip."

"Duplicate and expand boat launching facilities at Deerubbin (Mooney), and then close the Parsley Bay ramp to allow for ample general parking."

"Disability parking must be provided at the Health Centre."

Q5: Are there any other priorities not listed?

"Lift or access ramp at Hawkesbury River station."

"Brooklyn has the capacity to attract thousands of boating tourists a year if we give them somewhere to tie up and visit."

"More police patrols to cut down on hooning on the Old Pacific Hwy, and excessive speed along Brooklyn Road."

"A square where our kids and visitors/ tourists can sit and chat, read a book and look at the view."

"Full time medical centre, open longer hours and more days especially weekend."

"Accommodation for elderly residents (Brooklyn and river settlements) - hostel style perhaps."

"Focus on walking and biking- finish the footpath and connect with National parks and history to create more interest whilst walking around the village."

"Brooklyn has a rich heritage and could be a great with a historic vibe similar to Berry, NSW and Tilba Tilba, NSW."

Q6: If you would like to see additional businesses in town, what would they be?

"General Store that sells fresh produce and fresh baked bread at a reasonable market price."

"Art and craft shop showcasing local artists."

"Shops like Millthorpe or Bangalow and other small villages in country areas."

"Station master house as a museum about the area."

"Tea house that is open 6-7 days a week."

"More focus on fishing industries."

"A proper Cruise terminal would be a major asset and encourage diversified cruise operations."

Q7: Is there anything else you would like to add?

"The community consultation on this plan has given people from other areas the major say in our future, Where Brooklyn property owners are likely to have property values affected, they MUST be consulted, fairly and directly."

“Old Tom [Richmond]’s” Vision for Brooklyn

No doubt all of us have a vision for Brooklyn. I would like to share with my fellow residents the concepts that I submitted in a comprehensive written document prepared for the consultants in the Masterplan process. The fact that I did not qualify to be consulted as part of the reference group leads me to the first observation. It is a simple one. All of us who are property owners at Brooklyn must have not only the chance to contribute opinions on possible change, but also, they must have the major say.

Briefly, my vision commenced with a redesigning of Brooklyn Harbour. The Dangar Island Wharf would remain where it is, but the Dangar Island moorings would be moved to a location in the corner, near the station. Thus, Dangar Island people using public transport would have increased convenience and the need to dredge the eastern channel would be removed.

The cruise facilities displaced by the moorings would be relocated to Peat Island, where the outside wharf has adequate deep water capacity. Heritage buildings on the island could be used to help rebuild the local tourist industry into its past glory and the new facilities could provide the opportunity for increased competition. A scenic bus route would connect the Island with the Station, as it did for many years in the past.

All of McKell Park would be brought under timed parking control to prevent its use for car storage. A subway connection with the western side of the station would be provided at the southern end of the station. Such a subway has already been designed and is above king tide levels. The subway would give ideal entry to the station without steps or a lift and would enable government land to the west of the line to be used as a car storage area for river settlements. It would be a relatively short walk from the relocated moorings.

It is years since the “Gut” was dredged and this should be done to restore ease of navigation. Removed sand could be used as land fill to reclaim extra space on the western side of the line. This process would provide additional deep water waterfront that could be used to provide riverside dwellers from up the river with berthing adjacent to the station. This would remove any threat to the appropriate use of Kangaroo Point.

My submission also stressed the fact that the Health Centre is absolutely vital to local health and that it cannot be closed without causing severe problems. Council rarely seems to understand this. Other elements of the Northern Sydney Health Study were referenced.

I cannot recall which politician recommended that we should always back the horse “Self Interest” because we know it would be trying. We do not want a vision that strips away parkland that will be so important in providing a convenient “playground” for the intensively developed area to our south. We need to open the waterways to cruise operations, including the present ones, to capitalise on the area’s greatest tourist asset. We need to preserve the atmosphere of Brooklyn and avoid the “Gold Coast Syndrome.”

Above all, our civic leaders need to learn to listen to our local residents, who live here on a daily basis, have learned to accommodate tourist activities and have ideas that are worth hearing.

Tom Richmond OAM Brooklyn

Steve Hitchcock: Visions for Brooklyn

My vision is for a more popular Brooklyn, for visitors and tourists, and future citizens. But not bigger. A tidy, clean and pretty village, with successful shops and businesses. An enticing entrance to the Hawkesbury River, and all it has to offer, whether boating, fishing, walking, viewing, working or living there. It would be nice if most of Sydney knew of Brooklyn and where it was, instead of the blank faces I usually get when asked where I live. Astonishing that even some Central Coasties train commuters don’t know where Brooklyn is - yet they pass through it every day!

Some suggestions for next steps:

- More signage: At the start of Brooklyn, Walks around town, a sub-sign at the station!
- Paths: Complete path along Brooklyn Road to Hwy, Kangaroo Pt and on to Mooney, on to and around Long Island. Around coast to Dead Horse and Sandy beaches.
- Sightseeing: Long Island walks, signs and lookouts along Great North Walk, Extend board walks
- Flowers: Alongside Brooklyn Road, Station, Marina and surrounds (Visit UK in summer and the villages are bursting with flowers)
- Locals: Competition for cleanest house front, best nature strip, friendliest neighbour

If Brooklyn had a brand, it could be ‘Brooklyn, proud hub of the beautiful Hawkesbury River’

PS If Peat Island ever gets built, which will be very visible to motorists, it could overtake Brooklyn in this role. That would be sad.....

Steve Hitchcock Brooklyn

Miriam Moloney: Improving Brooklyn for Residents and Businesses

When we settled in Brooklyn 30 years ago we were in awe of the landscape and riverscape so dominant. Brooklyn was nestled along the foreshore in a haphazard and informal way that tells its history. Brooklyn seemed to develop by default rather than by design. The negligence of Council to make a decision is still evident today, with so many parking studies parked on a shelf collecting dust and now a masterplan potentially to suffer the same fate. Lots of low hanging fruit here, achievable with the will.

My vision:

Parsley Bay – a shared use area.

- Restrict weekend boat ramp use and collect a fee. Include a commuter berthing facility relocated from the northern side of McKell Park. The commuter berthing facility would be relevant for river residents who regularly use their car (i.e. they do not regularly or never use public transport.) Provide rear to curb parking on the southern side of Parsley Bay from the toilets back for river residents to complement the commuter berthing and improve lighting.
- Our Yacht Club, Sailing Club and water sports can eventually have a facility, including a café in Parsley Bay to generate activity there for visitors and the community. More parkland. Retain only the boat trailer spaces directly in front of the boat ramp which already provides for vehicles in both directions. Reconfigure the remainder with a pedestrian path and parkland and BBQ facilities for families and 2-4 hour parking for visitors.
- A narrow 2-3 storey car park up against the hillside of McKell Park on the northern side of Parsley Bay. The top deck enables people to access the top of McKell Park parkland.
- Regularise parking at the top of McKell Park as an interim solution for river residents.

Northern side of McKell Park towards the tidal pool

- Remove car parking on the foreshore side and return this to parkland. Reduce half the remaining car parking on the bush side near the playground. The remainder would be four hourly and disability parking.
- The remaining commuter berthing facility retained for river residents who use public transport.

Economic decline

- Rail promotion and the importance of the lift and a longer term tourism strategy from Hornsby Council that promotes Brooklyn to the Shire.
- The area opposite the station redeveloped with both shopping and community facilities. Examine affordable housing or independent living units so that residents with no parking needs who are ageing do not have to move away. Close to public transport and the town centre.
- Open the area in front of the medical centre to become a town square with plantings and seating. Ensure the car park in the medical centre enables parking for clients as well.
- 2 storey car park behind the pub with the bottom half available for river residents at an annual fee. The public car parking section could have a modest fee in place. If the proposed car park on the western side of the railway station doesn't get up then other options need to be canvassed noting that we do not want to create the Central Coast rail commuter problems that are in Berowra.

Other residents have told me:

- Greater variety of retail shops, restaurants open for evening dining & improved nightlife; improved community spaces & facilities eg. development of a town centre with seating, night lighting, plantings for shade & beauty, improved pavement surfaces; courtesy bus doing a loop on weekends from a car park near the sewerage facility.
- Multi-use waterfront facilities to allow for commercial & social activity - markets, festivals, performances etc.
- More extensive waterfront parklands with more picnic facilities, seating & plantings for shade; safe cycleway/footpath on rail overpass bridge Resurfacing & redevelopment of tennis courts; enlargement of skate park and more bubblers at the oval / sports field.

Miriam Moloney Brooklyn

Peter Davis: Solution to Brooklyn's Parking Problem



Illustration by Peter Davis Brooklyn

Brooklyn Chemist



Brooklyn Pharmacy
 "Medicine at your door step"

Phone: 02 99857660

Shop 1, 5 Bridge St. Brooklyn NSW 2083

Mon - Fri: 9:00am - 5:00pm
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- Free Blood Pressure Monitoring
- Free Medication Checks
- Diabetes agent (NDSS)
- Return of Unwanted Medications
- Free Webster Packing
- Scripts on File service
- Compounding Service
- Free Local Delivery

Tamer Mansour is the new chemist in Brooklyn. He and his wife Aiya are from the Central Coast, and have two little girls Maizie and Aaylah. *Welcome to Brooklyn.*

Bridge to Bridge Boat Races

The Bridge to Bridge Ski and Power Boat races will be held on Sunday 25th November. Exclusive use of the river has been given from Dangar Island to Windsor for this event. This event will bring extra road traffic to Brooklyn from early on Sunday morning through till about Noon as boats are launched at Parsley Bay.

Andrew Fenwick

Tim Irwin: A Vision for Brooklyn

One cannot mentally separate Brooklyn from the Hawkesbury River when contemplating its future. Brooklyn is the gateway to one of the most magnificent waterways on the planet.

The natural beauty that has been preserved here, just one hour from a city of the size of Sydney, is truly remarkable. And it's so readily accessible with train and motorway access! Brooklyn is the transport hub of the Lower Hawkesbury River – has been since conception and should continue to be.

If you can't separate Brooklyn from the Hawkesbury River, likewise you can't separate it from the River Communities, particularly those of water only accessed properties. These communities have co-existed for 100+ years. Our communities are intertwined. We share the school, businesses, transport, logistics, social and personal connections. The River Communities are the limbs of Brooklyn and any vision for Brooklyn must embrace the whole.

The biggest hurdle to the advancement of this region is the dire situation re car parking and this has been apparent for over 20 years. It is time to do something about it. The limited provision of car parking is frustrating all and is clearly inhibiting the economic and social prosperity of our region.

My vision then is to work toward solving the problem of this limitation by a focus on providing more car parking, without negatively impacting on this beautiful environment. Clearing or reclaiming land in a location that is workable for those with young children and/or those with mobility issues is, in my opinion, not possible. The only logical option therefore, is the creation of a multi-storey car park. It is my 'Vision' then that this be created on Council land opposite the train station, land currently occupied by the 'Hawkesbury Art', 'Fitzies' and 'Leisure Centre'. When doing so, a new Fitzies could be incorporated into the frontage of the car park and the weatherboard buildings relocated to create a more vibrant space of the land between the Fishing Co-op and the Ferry Wharf.

Now before anyone thinks of a massive concrete bunker, I suggest a design whereby the various levels are stepped back and tiered with sandstone terraced planters with a screen of native landscaping on each level. At street level would be an avenue of trees. In this way it could aim to blend in with the contours and textures of the surrounding bush. Entry & Exit would be from Dangar Road and traffic would spiral up effectively 3 levels internally and I think 160 car spaces could be created here. The design would aim to keep the existing Fig trees on the western side and the existing Palm trees on the Eastern side. The construction cost might be financed by selling a third of the strata titled spaces for private use. The majority would be available free to the public. This would then provide much needed additional car parking, convenient to the train, the town centre and the port facilities, at minimum cost to the Council.

Just a thought!



Tim Irwin Little Wobby

[I am a retired Architect and have lived at Little Wobby since 2009. I am President of the Lower Hawkesbury River Residents Association Inc].

Hawkesbury River Yacht Club Friday Twilight Sail and BBQ

We have just started our summer Twilight Sail and BBQ's on the third Friday of the month, and welcome visitors to join us. Weather permitting, our boats usually leave Parsley Bay around 5pm, sail a short course, and then return for a sausage sizzle at the Parsley Bay picnic shelters.

December 14th

January 18th

February 15th

March 15th

Enquiries - Cliff 0425 310 930

Mimi Roberts: The Antibes Answer to Brooklyn's Parking Crisis

The town of Antibes on the French Riviera wanted to remove all parking spots from the waterfront zones and inner streets of the walled village. There were about 230 parking spaces that were used mainly by tourists, but workers and residents jostled for space too.



The Council decided to dig down at the waterfront, where only 200 cars could park, and now across the new three underground levels there is space for 600 cars. Lights indicate empty bays. Entry and payment is by credit card. There's a lift and stairs. And 24 hour access.

Here are the parking fees as at August 2018, in the equivalent A\$. Space can be booked and paid online through the Q parking website at slightly lower rates. There is also an annual fee of about \$1800 per year, payable monthly that would suit residents and their guests.

30 minutes	\$0.00	12 hours	\$35.00
1 hour	\$4.50	1 week	\$100.00
5 hours	\$9.00	4 weeks	\$260.00

In addition, the Council offers bona fide residents of the old town, one electronic pass costing about \$500 yearly to park in a gated area on the reclaimed land at Port Vauban.

Restaurants and businesses appear to be delighted with the solution. There are now over 350 more spaces for tourists who pay a reasonable fee of \$9 that gives enough time for a long lunch and shopping. And holiday renters can stick a car in a safe space for just \$100 more than their weekly rent on the apartment.

The outer rim parking lot has become an entertainment area and park during the summer season. Inside the village, Place Nationale has a rotunda for nightly music. There is very light traffic on the single road in and out of the old town.

For comparison, the very few Hornsby Council secured spaces at Brooklyn (behind Fitzies) cost \$1800 per year. And there's a long waiting list.

A Hornsby Councillor mentioned that building a parking lot underground costs about \$60,000 per space. Thus, the Council would need to cough up \$18m for 300 spaces at lower McKell Park, beneath the waterfront parking area that could be returned to parkland. The parking area near the station would remain free of cost under current State Transport guidelines for commuter use.

<https://www.q-park-resa.fr/en/car-park/antibes/city-center-port-14.html>

Written by Mimi Roberts Little Wobby, with information and photo by Miriam Moloney Brooklyn

Hawkesbury River Sailing Club.

The 2018/19 Season is now under way after a shaky start caused by strong wind warnings blowing out two of our scheduled races last month. We have now completed two races over the past two weekends as the weather had settled down considerably.

Our main off water activity is now scheduled for late March early April and will be an eight day bus trip to the Echuca and Ballarat area of northern Victoria.

The on water cruising calendar has not yet been finalised and will be published on our website in due course.

Malcolm Sinclair, Secretary HRSC, malcolmws@bigpond.com

Hawkesbury River Childcare

HRCC will be collecting non-perishable items for 'Coast Shelter' this December (December 1st through to December 20th). Coast Shelter is a not for profit that support the local homeless community on the central coast. We have done a few events to raise money and items for the homeless and I know Brooklyn also has a homeless community however I'm not sure how I to get in touch with someone who knows them or how to get them any items we collect. If you do we would be happy to donate our collected items to Brooklyn locals also We will have a sign at the centre where parents can place the items if the centre is closed most likely near our Christmas tree display. As we don't have the space for items that require refrigeration or a freezer we are just collecting pantry items to hopefully fill a few pantries for the holiday season of families in need.

End of Year Celebration - 30th Anniversary

On December 19th we are holding our end of year celebration, commencing at 3pm. As this year is the 30th anniversary of Hawkesbury River Childcare Inc we are inviting the community to celebrate with us. There will be light refreshments and entertainment at the event.

We are inviting members of the community who helped open the service, who were part of the parent committee at any point in time, families who used to attend the service or anyone who would like to attend for a big celebration of the achievement in providing a service to the families of Brooklyn for 30 years. The community have given the children of Brooklyn a place to learn and form friendships, and a safe place for their parents to leave their children where they know they will be nurtured and supported.

We are hoping to get some old photos of the centre being built and when it first opened, it was 30 years ago so photos weren't as easy as they are now but I'm sure someone out there would have some great pictures stashed away. We have some at the centre to display but it would be great to get any other photos people have. People can contact me to RSVP or to send photos via email or call me on the phone below:

Karina Khairuddin info@hrcc.com.au 02 9985 7362

Brooklyn Rural Fire Brigade

Fire Season is now upon us.

It's easy to think nothing is going to happen given the rain that we've had recently. The reality is the long-term outlook for Australia is higher than normal temperatures and less rain. The (BOM) Bureau of Meteorology has consistently predicted that we're likely to see higher temperatures throughout October to November. What does this mean for us? It's likely that at some point we're going to see a major fire; whether that's in our district or ones nearby we don't know, but we know it's likely to occur.

What does it mean for you and the residents of Brooklyn? It means a long hot summer of potential high danger periods and you should be aware of what the fire danger level currently is. The Fire Danger sign is located on the entry of Brooklyn road just after Dolphins marina. You likely drive past it every day.

But do you know what these levels mean or what to do? The Fire Danger Ratings give you an indication of the possible consequences of a fire, if one was to start. Bush Fire Danger Ratings are based on predicted conditions such as temperature, humidity, wind and the dryness of the landscape.

The higher the fire danger rating, the more dangerous the conditions.

If something was to start, then you can refer to your fire plan. But how fireproof is your plan? A new initiative from the RFS talks about how fireproof is your plan. To discover how fireproof your plan is or start making one, you can go to the following website - <https://www.myfireplan.com.au/>. Take 5 minutes to improve or make a plan for this summer.

Join Us and Help Us Prepare

If you're like me, then you'd rather know what's going on than be sitting back waiting and wondering. The best way of doing this is to join Brooklyn Rural Fire Brigade. We are all volunteers and all members of the community. There are many roles, not just firefighting that we need assistance with. These range from planning and logistics; help with the appliances we have and manning the station in times of large incidents. Of course, if you want to get on the end of a hose and fight a fire - we're always looking for new firefighters too. Our member's age ranges from 16 to 70 - and this is a great way to give back to the community you're part of.

If you'd like to join or have questions about what it means to be part of the Brooklyn Rural Fire Brigade, please give me a ring on 0439 333 223; *we and your community need you.*

Tim O'Mahony Brooklyn Captain NSW RFS

Mooney ~ Cheero information

The Mooney ~ Cheero Progress Association meets every month from February to December on the first Tuesday of the month in the Mooney Library (in the old School) at 7:30 PM.

The Mooney Library is one of Central Coast Council's libraries. They run professionally organised StoryTime for pre-schoolers every Monday during school terms from 10:00 to Noon. The library is open to the public (including folks from the wrong side of the river) on Tuesdays from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM and Saturdays from 9:00 AM to Noon (with support from volunteers).

The library and the Mooney Chapel are available for use by community members by arrangement.

There is a State Government "Reverse Vending Machine" in the second car park at the Mooney Club. See https://returnandearn.org.au/return_point/mooney-mooney-club/.

For further information contact John Andrews on andrews.johnb@outlook.com

A Sustainable Life

An element of sustainability is social sustainability. This is about who we are as a community. How we create the place we would like to live in and share with the people around us.

I believe we need to strengthen our community ties, build some resilience. We can only do this by coming together. A good way to do this is to have a community garden.

Community gardens bring people together. They are places to:

- share experiences, talk, build friendships.
- learn from each other
- bring a diversity of people together, young and old.
- grow together
- harvest together

We want to create a community garden that is a place for anyone to come and help or just to 'smell the roses'. If you would like to be part of building a vision for the community garden contact the BCA and provide us your email address. We will be putting an email list to keep you up to date with the latest news and opportunities to get involved.

Ingrid Segovia Brooklyn resident & Environmental Scientist

Brooklyn Public School

A word from our new principal, Mrs Greta Hughes who is relieving for Mrs Diana Aitkin while she is on leave:

I have been welcomed into the Brooklyn School community and feel very lucky to be here! I have been very impressed with how friendly and interested the students are and how hardworking and dedicated the teachers. I have met many wonderful parents and families, including many grandparents at our Grandparents' Day last week, and have met with some of the dedicated P&C members. I can see that Brooklyn Public School is a great place for learning and social connections.

Brooklyn Public School is committed to building a safe, inclusive learning environment in which children can develop a sense of belonging and wellbeing. The expert staff strives to deliver engaging and meaningful learning experiences that will develop the skills and capabilities necessary for the challenges of the 21st Century. The natural bush setting provides wonderful opportunities for play and exploration. Brooklyn Public School is proud to be part of the wider community, with families coming by ferry, boat, car, bus and on foot to get here! We are happily accepting enrolments for 2019 for all grades from Kindergarten to Year 6. Hope to see you soon!

The SS Brooklyn was officially launched at the Term 3 Assembly. Thanks go to Chris Haywood and his band of helpers and also to our very generous donors who made our new playground come to life.

