

# Gateway

Newsletter of the Brooklyn Community Association Inc November 2019

## President's Report

(Next Issue February 2020)

It has been a very good year for Brooklyn. To name a few key events in town:

- Announcement of the Lift at the Station and planning work now underway
- Footpath completed all the way through town to Seymours Creek
- Renovation and opening of The Cottage
- History talks with Tom Richmond
- Grant for stage finalised and used at this year's 20th anniversary at the Theatre in the Park
- Sustainability committee launched
- No changes to the building or running of the Health Centre
- School garden continues to grow and innovate
- Businesses in the community winning awards
- New businesses starting up
- Brooklyn Place plan started along with plans for an in-depth parking study

I write this every year, my, how the year has flown but I have to say this one was even quicker due to the many activities happening in our community. This is all possible because of a dedicated BCA committee and also the two subcommittees – the Cottage and Sustainability, and for the many people in the community that put up their hand to help. This community helped start up the daycare and the afterschool care, there is the amazing RFS in town, one of the busiest brigades in the state, Chair Yoga, all the sports volunteers, Marine Rescue and the VRA. There are many others and we thank you for all you do. If you want to get involved for next year, join one of our committees or volunteer at the cottage.

Every year at this time, the BCA invites members to join the BCA Executive Committee. Interested members can contact the Secretary on [info@brooklyncommunity.org.au](mailto:info@brooklyncommunity.org.au) for a nomination form. Committee members are elected at the Annual General Meeting.

We hope you can celebrate these accomplishments and wins for our community at the AGM on November 30th. It is starting at 3:00 pm with the Christmas end of year celebration afterwards. Please bring a plate and some cheer!

**Di Bowles, President Brooklyn Community Association**

[president@brooklyncommunity.org.au](mailto:president@brooklyncommunity.org.au)

## Brooklyn Community Association Annual General Meeting & Christmas Party

**3pm-5pm Saturday 30 November 2019  
Brooklyn Community Meeting Room**

BCA Members, Guests and Friends welcome.

## Meeting Dates

Saturday

2 Mar 2019  
15 Jun 2019  
7 Sep 2019  
30 Nov 2019

## What's happening at Brooklyn Public School

- |                         |              |                                 |            |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| ➤ School Concert        | Wed 4 Dec    | ➤ Year 6 Dinner                 | Mon 16 Dec |
| ➤ Presentation Assembly | Thurs 12 Dec | ➤ Last day of year for students | Wed 18 Dec |

The Gateway is published by the Brooklyn Community Association. Contact the BCA on [info@brooklyncommunity.org.au](mailto:info@brooklyncommunity.org.au). While every attempt is made to publish content as submitted, some editing of material may occur during publication.

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.

## Update on the Rail Wheel Squeal Issue

There has been some, albeit slow, progress made in addressing the issue of wheel squeal from passing freight trains which negatively affects many Brooklyn residents.

In January 2018 Transport for NSW introduced RSU 400 Series 'Minimum Operating Standards for Rolling Stock - Freight Vehicle Specific Interface Standards'. Section 2.7.1 deals with wagon (bogie) steering requirements with mandatory requirements for bogie angle of attack/steering performance.

In this new standard, any wagon that exceeds an angle of attack of 15 milliradians will be issued a notification of breach by TfNSW. The requirement that follows is:

- The operator shall, within 12 months, rectify the performance of the wagon, or
- Submit a plan to rectify the performance of the wagon. The timeline for rectification shall be no longer than the next scheduled overhaul of the bogies on the wagon.
- If the operator fails to satisfy these requirements the affected wagon shall not be operated on the Rail Corp network until its steering performance has been rectified to the satisfaction of the Lead Rolling Stock Engineer, Australian Standards Authority.

By May 2019 a total of 4,516 non-compliant bogies had been referred to freight operators. This equals about 2,000 non-compliant wagons or about one third of the total fleet. Freight operators, to that date, had carried out modifications on a total of 78 wagons. These wagons were being used to trial and prove the effectiveness of treatments and it was anticipated by TfNSW that it would take a few years for the remaining wagons of, for example, the worst performing class to be modified. We have recently requested an update to these totals and would be happy to report these at a BCA meeting.

Regarding the Freight Noise Attenuation Program ie. modification of properties to reduce the impact of freight noise inside homes, we were advised in late May that under the program there is an upper limit on the number of properties that can be treated each year. TfNSW planned to commence works at approx 20 properties in the Brooklyn area from the middle of 2019 and noted that FNAP treatments in Brooklyn are likely to continue for several years.

There has also been progress in reducing the environmental impact of the rail freight industry through the Environmental Protection Authority. In 2016 we made a submission to the Rail Regulatory Review set up by the EPA in which we strongly supported their proposal to directly license rail freight operators. Presently it is only the track owner who is licensed under an EPL. In July the new Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Matt Kean, signed off on this proposal.

As representatives of the BCA we have attended one community stakeholder meeting with EPA and there were representatives also attending from Tascott/Koolewong, Cowan, Hornsby, Pennant Hills, Beecroft, Blue Mountains and Thirroul community groups. We were presented with a proposal from EPA to cover freight operators' activities with EPLs and we were asked for our input. The main environmental issues to be addressed in the EPLs are rail freight noise, especially wheel squeal, and diesel emissions. All community groups spoke very strongly in favour of quantitative limits on wheel squeal noise level in accordance with WHO standards. There is a second meeting with community stakeholders scheduled for December 5.

EPA has also held stakeholder meetings with community groups in Newcastle and with the freight operators.

*Chris and Cynthia Hughes.*

## Homer's Kitchen

Brooklyn is excited to welcome a new cafe into its midst. With a fresh modern interior, they also display a menu to match, Homer's Kitchen is sure to please every palette as well as saving the day for those in need for those last-minute needed gifts! Homer's Kitchen bases itself on the premise of rustic home cooking, Vanessa and Casey have listened to the locals and are serving a flavourful menu from home cooked roasts every Sunday through to fresh scones and Vanessa's famous quiches.

With a delightful garden courtyard accompanied by an air-conditioned interior that compliments the shop as you wander through Homer's Kitchen gifts selection Wishlist waiting for your meals or coffees the shop ensures to transcend through the seasons. In addition, they have now launched a healthy range of school lunches for Brooklyn Public School kids and are working with the school to enable the children to experience from seed to plate.

A great addition to the community, come in for a chat, a coffee and a spot of shopping and you will not be disappointed.

Open 7 seven days a week except Christmas and New Year's Day!  
Monday to Friday - 6am - 4pm. Saturday and Sunday - 7am - 4pm

02 9985 7291  
nesshomer@gmail.com



# The Cottage

## Placemaking in action

It was a beautiful day in Brooklyn for the opening of the Cottage. The day started with the celebration walk from the dairy for the new footpath, taking us to the official opening. The local market stalls were a success with produce from the school garden, honey from a local resident, cakes, plants and local artisan craft.

The Cottage is the first building you see as you alight from the Hawkesbury River station stairs with heritage listing and many memories but was neglected for years. The BCA approached the Council with an idea, and in line with the new Placemaking strategy, the Cottage became a part of the Brooklyn Place Plan. The Council renovated the building including a new kitchen, restoring the original Oregon floorboards to their former glory and painting the interior and exterior of the building. Utilising the Councils native nursery, the BCA along with the local Bushcare volunteers planted the cottage garden.

The BCA plans to hold art exhibitions, community workshops, learning opportunities, and lead sustainability initiatives. One of the rooms in the Cottage displays some of the amazing history of Brooklyn and the Lower Hawkesbury River and also has information about the incredible walks in the surrounding parks.

The Cottage will be a place for the community to connect, learn and share skills enabling Brooklyn to become an even better place to live. By linking the two commercial sectors, the "CBD" and the marina area, it will make it more exciting and informative for the visitors to spend some more time in Brooklyn.

The Cottage is part of the Hornsby Festival of the Arts with the "Living by the River" exhibition. On display are paintings by celebrated local artists who live by and seek inspiration from the magnificent Hawkesbury River. From misty scenes and lone rowboats to leggy mangroves, this is a rich visual experience giving an intimate glimpse into the artists' relationship with the river. Complimenting this are photographs from around the river by Juno Gemes from her collaborative work, The Language of Oysters, with Robert Adamson.

The Cottage is run by local community volunteers and is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 9-4. We are looking for more volunteers to help us man the Cottage - it's a great opportunity to meet new people and tell them about our community. We are holding a Christmas Market on December 8th. If you want to participate in the market, run a workshop, volunteer or have ideas for the Cottage please email [thecottage@brooklyncommunity.org](mailto:thecottage@brooklyncommunity.org).



## What's on at The Cottage

### 16 Nov 2019 Wreath making

Using found natural objects flowers and vine, create a festive wreath to welcome in the season!

### 20 Nov 2019 Bees Wax wraps

Using local bees wax, make some gorgeous wraps to keep your food fresh, portable and plastic free!

### 8 Dec 2019 Christmas Market

Pick up something special and enjoy the festive feel as you relax in the Cottage garden. Local products, sustainability and coming together.

### 15 Dec 2019 Christmas Sew Soon!

**Sparkle** - Create an e-textile light-up decoration using conductive thread and an LED, or **Stitch up** a stocking or decoration to welcome in the festive season!

### 15 Dec 2019 Hidden painted stones

Stone painting and treasure hunt. Join a global game to see where your stone ends up (uses Facebook). For the whole family.

### 23 Dec 2019 Gingerbread house decorating

All hands required!

### 4 Jan 2020 Bees wax lip balms

Make your own luscious lip balm with local bees wax

### 17 Jan 2020 Reading the River:

Poetry reading Robert Adamson and others

### Feb 2020 & Later

- Recycled rugs: Turn old t-shirts into a rustic rug using crochet
- Plein Air painting: for beginners
- Knitting: Join in or learn how to knit
- Knotting: Learn how tie a bowline, monkeyfist or turkshead.
- Oysters and the Hawkesbury: Talks, walks and of course a feast!
- Bees in Brooklyn: Keeping, products and conversation

*Dates may change due to numbers.*

*Book at The Cottage or call Myff Sharp on 0432 208 120  
[TheCottage@brooklyncommunity.org.au](mailto:TheCottage@brooklyncommunity.org.au)*

# Brooklyn Rural Fire Service

## ***New Brooklyn LED Sign.***

You may have noticed whilst driving down Brooklyn Road, outside the fire station, there is a new full colour LED sign!

After many years, we retired our old RGN sign and upgraded to a new full colour sign. The small amount of fundraising we do through-out the years has gone towards this community asset.

This new sign is over twice the resolution of the old sign, can play much longer videos, is better protected from the weather and is, of course full colour.

We will be using the sign this fire season and beyond to let you know about local events as well as days where there is a total fire ban. To get information up on the sign, please contact us on [brooklynrfb@gmail.com](mailto:brooklynrfb@gmail.com)



## ***Fire Season is now upon us.***

*“Today’s forecast is Very High Fire danger”*

If you heard this, do know what this means or what to do if a fire was to start? 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 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.

## **FAQ**

### ➤ What can I do to prepare?

The big things are preparing around your house; clear your gutters, keep lawns short and gardens well maintained. Cut back trees and shrubs overhanging buildings, clean up fallen leaves, twigs and debris around the property. Have hoses long enough to reach around your house.

A well prepared house is more likely to survive than an unprepared one.

### ➤ Where is the Brooklyn Evacuation Point

This is a common question we get asked. There isn't a specific place that we say is the Brooklyn Evacuation point. This will all depend on where the fire is coming from and if there is time to evacuate. Your fire plan should consider what you will need to do to stay and defend, if the roads or rail lines out of Brooklyn are blocked.

The Police and the Fire Brigade will work together if we have to evacuate Brooklyn, and it will likely be from the Oval, Parsley Bay, Mckell Park or the Dairy. Again, this will all depend on where the fire is.

### ➤ How can I find out about fires?

You can find out about fires using the Fires Near Me app, setting up watch zones around Brooklyn. You can also use the Fires near me website - <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/news-and-media/stay-up-to-date>

## **AIDER**

The AIDER (Assist Infirm, Disabled and Elderly Residents) program is a free, one-off service which supports some of our most at-risk community members. The program helps people live more safely and confidently in their home in areas where bush fires may start.

The AIDER program is designed for people who have limited domestic support available from family, relatives, friends or other services. This could include older people, people living with a disability, and people who are already receiving community assistance and services. Their property must also be on bush fire prone land (land that can support a bush fire or be subject to bush fire attack).





AIDER services can include:

- clearing gutters
- thinning vegetation around the home
- removing leaf and tree debris
- trimming branches from close to the home
- mowing or slashing long grass.

To find out more about this service, please check the AIDER website - [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/aider](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/aider), or give me a ring on 0439 333 223.

### **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 needs you!

*Tim O'Mahony Brooklyn Captain 0439 333 223 [brooklynrffb@gmail.com](mailto:brooklynrffb@gmail.com)*

## **Brooklyn Theatre in the Park**

This year was our 20th Anniversary and what a turn out we had! Early estimates are circa 500 people turned up to enjoy a night under the stars to watch a fantastic theatre production put together by the local community, and the weather was perfect!

This year, rather than continuing to hire all the lighting to ensure the production is as professional as possible, we purchased our own with some of the money raised from previous productions. We also did not have to rely on a group of dedicated volunteers to erect and dismantle the stage as has happened each year. Thanks to some hard work from the community, funds from Brooklyn Community Theatre and a very generous grant from our local Federal MP (Julian Lesser), we now have a permanent concrete stage for this and all future productions. Our wonderful volunteers still have to design, build and dress the set, set up lighting and sound, as well as prepare the park for the large crowds and we simply could not do it all without them – thank you to all of them!

This year sees a number of volunteers retiring from their positions after many years of service, so if you are interested in helping or would like to know what is involved in this unique annual one night only performance please contact Brooklyn Community Theatre via email: [brooklyntheatreinthepark@gmail.com](mailto:brooklyntheatreinthepark@gmail.com)

For the 2020 production we are looking for volunteers to help/take on a number of positions that will be available including Producing, Graphic Design (flyer, posters, program, wine labels, T Shirt design). Also, if you are interested in stage/ set design and dressing or lighting and sound (including effects) please reach out as our current volunteers could really use the help.



*Karen and Lyn Producers Brooklyn Community Theatre  
[brooklyntheatreinthepark@gmail.com](mailto:brooklyntheatreinthepark@gmail.com) [www.theatreinthepark.com.au](http://www.theatreinthepark.com.au)*

## Tom Richmond – Talking History Program

This local history event, presented by local resident Tom Richmond, OAM, was the second in a series of three talks on the history of Brooklyn and the lower Hawkesbury.

With about 60 people in attendance, Tom's presentation covered the period 1900 to 1919 and 1920 to 1939. With a significant collection of digital images to complement the talk, it covered the early settlement of Brooklyn, the visit of the Duke and Duchess of York, the wartime and the shooting down of the Red Baron. Tom addressed the emerging tourist industry, hotels and boarding houses, and railway workers and oyster farming industries. The more significant structures of the Town Centre buildings including the police station and the post office helped cement its importance. Also, the challenges of an accessible road to connect Brooklyn and forging of the Hawkesbury River Road Bridge to replace the punt service operated by George Peat.

This second history event was attended by Julian Leeser, MP Member for Berowra and Philip Ruddock, Hornsby Shire Mayor and Councillor Mick Maher. A highlight in the closing event was when Tom deftly presented a brown paper bag to the Mayor, which contained 3 "forged" copies of the original 5-pound note, exclaiming he had been waiting a long time for an opportunity to bribe a polliie.

The Australian five-pound note was first issued in 1913 and featured a scene looking along the Hawkesbury River near Brooklyn, New South Wales, from the railway toward Kangaroo Point.



*Brooklyn's Five Pound Note*

*Tom Richmond with Julian Leeser, MP Member for Berowra and Philip Ruddock, Hornsby Shire Mayor*

*Miriam Moloney miriammoloney@gmail.com*

## Hawkesbury River Yacht Club

Racing under grey skies and blustery conditions, interspersed with days of little to no wind have been our lot over the past few months. That said, we've only had to abandon one race due to adverse conditions, and on this particular occasion - winds of over 30 knots with spindrift whipping off the water – most of our owners decided that discretion was the better part of valour, and kept their boats on the mooring. To compensate, our Commodore took us for a sail to Refuge Bay in his boat Eikon, a New Zealand designed and built sloop, which has travelled the Pacific.

Our last race in October saw our boats sailing around a large pod of dolphins; something we see from time to time - which tends to distract us from racing. It's such a privilege to see these animals up close, reminding us what a beautiful part of the world we live and play in.

We are hoping to run Saturday twilight sails and BBQ's over the summer season. Our Vice Commodore James Donnelly, a local resident, will advise those he thinks might be interested in the dates (note, all of our boats have Category 7 safety ratings).

Once again we invite those interested in sailing to join us. Visit our website <https://www.hryc.asn.au/> or find us on Facebook.

For more information call Cliff on 0425 310 930.



*1 Cecilia, a Hood 23 in the Windward/Leeward Race C Wild 19 Oct 2019*

*Lee Malone HRYC*





# Bridge to Bridge

The 2019 Bridge to Bridge Water Ski Classic will be held on Sunday 24th November from Dangar Island to Windsor Bridge.

Exclusive use of the Hawkesbury River has been granted for this event from 7.30am through till 3pm. Local residents should be aware that this event will result in an heightened presents of vehicles on Brooklyn Road as vessels are delivered and launch at Parsley Bay. Most of the vehicle/trailer activity should be finished at the Brooklyn end by 10am on this Sunday.



Andrew Fenwick CMM, Fenwicks Marina  
02 9985 7633 [www.fenwicksmarina.com.au](http://www.fenwicksmarina.com.au)

# Marine Rescue Hawkesbury

## Boaters urged to check in with local Marine Rescue this season

At the start of the state’s peak boating season, Marine Rescue Hawkesbury is urging boaters to put safety first by checking in with their local unit before heading out on the water. Unit Commander Peter Moore said Marine Rescue Hawkesbury members would be on duty to serve the boating public.

*“Our hard-working volunteers will be keeping watch, poised to respond to emergencies on the water,” he said.*

The unit operates two search and rescue vessels and maintains a marine radio safety watch. Mr Moore said boaters could take simple precautions to help ensure they returned home safely:

1. Check conditions.  
Consult the latest marine weather forecast and if in doubt don’t go out.
2. Ensure everyone on board is wearing a lifejacket.  
Life jackets save lives. Put one on as soon as you step on board. There are styles to suit all sorts of activities on the water, and special ones for small children and pets.
3. Log On and Log Off with your local Marine Rescue unit  
Let us know where you are going and when you are due back. If you’re not back as expected, our crews will start to search for you. You can contact the volunteers at MR Hawkesbury by VHF marine radio, which we recommend for its superior coverage and reception. Boaters can also contact us on 99859012 or via the free, easy to use *MarineRescue* app for smartphones and tablets.
4. Check your vessel is in good working order.  
Check your motor and marine radio are in good operating order, make sure the battery is fully charged, you have enough fuel and the required safety equipment on board.

In a life-threatening emergency, call Triple Zero or make a Mayday call on your radio on VHF channel 16. Marine Rescue Hawkesbury is a unit of Marine Rescue NSW, the state’s official volunteer search and rescue service. For more details: [www.marinerescuensw.com.au](http://www.marinerescuensw.com.au)

*Sarah Adair, PR & Media Officer, Marine Rescue NSW Hawkesbury Unit [pr.Hawkesbury@marinerescuensw.com.au](mailto:pr.Hawkesbury@marinerescuensw.com.au)*

 <p>We are quiet achievers - last financial year we sold more Lower Hawkesbury properties than any other agency! We are proud to be the Major Sponsor of Brooklyn School and will always support the community we love.</p> <p>Open Monday to Saturday 9am to 5pm Closed Sunday</p> <p>Contact 0439 647 777 <a href="mailto:caelia@riverfront.com.au">caelia@riverfront.com.au</a></p>	<p>at the Old Post Office</p> <p>Pre-loved designer clothes, shoes, bags and bric-a-brac</p> <p>Open Friday to Monday 10:00 to 4:00 excluding public holidays</p> <p>Contact 0410 450 112</p> <p>Schubert Planning: Town planning and plan drawing services.</p> <p>Contact 0414 513 826 <a href="mailto:victor@schubertplanning.com.au">victor@schubertplanning.com.au</a></p>
<p><b>Kate Glenn</b> – Open throughout the holiday season Modern Registered Civil Marriage Celebrant</p>	 <p>Contact 0433 143 093 <a href="mailto:kathleenglennceremonialist@gmail.com">kathleenglennceremonialist@gmail.com</a></p>

## Council Minutes Make Compelling Reading

**BYGONE BROOKLYN**  
By Tom Richmond

A few evenings ago, I engaged in a favourite pastime, reading past minutes of Hornsby Council. There, I found, recorded in the minutes of 4th July, 1960, discussion on a letter from the Dangar Island Improvement League concerning parking in McKell Park. The

councillors resolved that the league be asked how many residents had cars and whether the League wanted to use McKell Park for parking by permanent residents only, or also for owners of weekenders.

By the meeting of 29th August, 1960, the League had apparently replied. The councillors moved that an "area be set aside for eight cars from Dangar Island just north of the entrance to McKell Park." It was further resolved that a parking fee of three shillings and sixpence per weekend be charged.

As a further measure for the Islanders, an eight foot shelter shed was to be erected adjacent to the public wharf, with the cost to be charged against the A Riding Town Improvement rate.

The minutes for 23rd January, 1961 contained an alteration to the charges. It was resolved at that meeting that the "weekend" should be from Friday night to Sunday night. If the vehicles were parked there for the full week, a charge of six shillings applied. For single day, Islanders were charged one shilling and sixpence.

The parking fees were to be collected by the ranger who supervised the park. At this time, people who drove into McKell Park at any time had to pay a fee.

Past minutes from Hornsby Council meetings often make fascinating reading. It is obvious that, back in 1960, the Council did not regard parking in McKell Park as a "right" held by people who lived in areas without road access. It decided that they could park in an area limited to eight cars only and that a fee should be charged. That area can be readily identified because the position of the entrance to the park has never changed.

Up to 1945, McKell Park had operated as a camping area with control vested in the Railways. After World War 2, control was handed to the Council and it became a waterside park. Baths were added and it became a popular place for visitors, especially those arriving by train.

Although Council had many urgent post-war tasks, back in 1951, the President, Cr Charles Somerville, who had a strong interest in Brooklyn, posted a minute that he believed that Brooklyn was second to none as far as a holiday resort was concerned because of the proximity of McKell Park to the railway station. Other councillors spoke at a September meeting about how the actions of the Council's workers, at McKell Park, had turned a "wilderness into a paradise".



McKell Park in its earlier form was the Railway Reclamation Reserve, which was a beautiful camping area.

The minutes of Hornsby Council are always interesting!

Tom Richmond OAM [uncletom@optusnet.com.au](mailto:uncletom@optusnet.com.au)

*Estuary*

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Dinner – Friday & Saturday  
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[www.estuary.com.au](http://www.estuary.com.au)

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