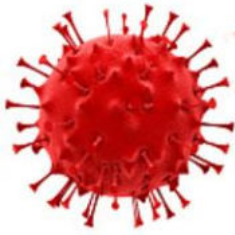


Gateway

Newsletter of the Brooklyn Community Association Inc May 2020

Next Issue August 2020



Special Edition *Pandemic Perspectives*

President's Report

Welcome to our special coronavirus edition of the Gateway. We hope this finds you and your family well and healthy. So far, we have been fortunate in our community with no diagnosed cases of Covid-19 and we hope that it remains that way!

The pandemic and the legislated isolation orders changed our lives. At the beginning, we were asked to stay at home unless you were an essential worker or needed groceries and medicine.

Restaurants, schools, art and theatre and sport all shuttered down. If it was possible, we stayed at home working and our children stayed at home for online learning assisted by their parents.

We have lost a couple of our elders in the community (not Covid-19) in the last few months and our thoughts are with their families.

It hasn't been easy not seeing or hugging family and friends, but our community for the most part has been lucky. We had to self-isolate (iso) in this gorgeous remarkable place alongside a kind and caring community.

Our local businesses made quick changes so they could keep serving the public. All our restaurants moved to a takeaway model, some delivered, and some helped the community to get essential items by ordering through their suppliers. Neighbours made sure everyone was ok and had groceries, some teaching others how to order online groceries for the first time.

We thank our community- you have been tremendous.

Enjoy this edition and our stories- stay healthy!

Di Bowles, President Brooklyn Community Association

president@brooklyncommunity.org.au

Gateway printed in Black & White, Online in Colour

The Gateway Newsletter is produced in both printed form; distributed to some 600 households in Brooklyn and the Lower Hawkesbury; and in online form, on the Brooklyn Community Association's website. The printed form of this edition of the Gateway Newsletter is in black & white, and the online form is in colour. The colour edition can be found at

<http://brooklyncommunity.org.au/about-bca/gatewaynewsletter/>

Brooklyn Community Association General Meeting

30 May Meeting Cancelled

Next Meeting: 10am-12pm Saturday 29 August 2020

BCA Members, Guests and Friends welcome.

Meeting Dates

Saturday

7 March

30 May

29 August

5 December-
3pm & AGM

The Gateway is published by the Brooklyn Community Association. Contact the BCA on 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 print the Gateway newsletter and provide committee meeting facilities, and Gary Robertson, Brooklyn's postie and musician, and his associates, who kindly deliver the Gateway in the community.

Riverfront Real Estate's COVID-19 experience

Well it's certainly been a strange time in history. The most difficult thing we've faced as an agency is watching some of our tenants lose their employment, with many going from full time work to Centrelink queues overnight. The financial struggle for them has been heartbreaking, and I am so grateful to the many compassionate landlords who stepped up to offer rent relief where necessary. Many landlords have also been financially affected by COVID-19, so it was imperative to strike the right balance between the financial needs of both tenants and landlords, in order to achieve a sustainable outcome for both parties. It was a confusing few weeks, while we awaited drip-fed advice about COVID-19 protocols for tenancies from the government (mind you, given that the government has never had to do anything of this magnitude, they rolled the programs out remarkably quickly).

We saw Airbnb holiday rentals grind to a halt, and helped many owners convert their holiday homes to full time tenancies instead, helping to soften their financial blow.

On the sales side of things, the phone stopped ringing completely for about 2 weeks which was a concern, however after Easter when some of the COVID-19 fear seemed to have subsided, the enquiries came flooding in again, resulting in more agency sales this April and May than last year. Buyer feedback suggests that buyer confidence is back, with more people seeking to move to less dense areas - making the Lower Hawkesbury an ideal choice. For the safety of our team, we have chosen to work from home during this time (and feel so blessed to be quarantined in paradise!). We have quickly adapted to this new world, implementing digital communication tools to ensure the team is on track and up to date with all tasks. We used the quieter weeks to refine our processes and to grow our skills through additional training, and are now better placed than ever to serve our community. Whilst it has been lovely not having to commute every day and to spend more time with our families, we do look forward to getting the team back together in the office, once it is safe to do so. For now, we continue to work remotely, however are still able to perform all facets of our property management and sales services.

If there's anything we can do to assist you during this time, we welcome your call.



Caelia Collins
Director & Principal Agent

0439 647 777

caelia@riverfront.com.au
www.riverfront.com.au

Brooklyn Road Incident and Power Failure

15 May 2020

At approximately 17:45 on 15th May, Brooklyn RFS Brigade was paged and the Brooklyn Pumper responded and found a tree alight between two power polls on Brooklyn Road just west of Cole street. A tree limb was resting on the high voltage lines, arcing with the occasional flame.

RFS notified Ausgrid and attempted to extinguish the flames using a broken stream technique. But due to the height of the lines, this was extremely difficult. After various attempts, it was conceded that the branch was unlikely to cause further damage if it fell and required removal by Ausgrid.

The Brooklyn Pumper crew taped off the area making it safe and returned to station. At the station, we met with an Ausgrid service technician, who said they'd investigate themselves and they had a crew with a cherry picker coming. They advised that due to the branch location it was likely we would lose power whilst they worked on removal of the branch.

An Ausgrid emergency crew attended the scene, removed the branch and completed repairs to the powerlines that night with power safely restored to all customers by 9:25pm. Ausgrid would like to thank residents for their patience and remind them if they ever see fallen wires to always assume they are live, stay at least 8metres back and call Ausgrid immediately on 131388.

*Tim O'Mahony Brooklyn Captain 0439 333 223 brooklynrfb@gmail.com
& Ausgrid Media Unit*

DOUGLAS WILLIAM FENWICK

3 September 1931 – 27 April 2020

Doug was a long-time resident of Brooklyn, having moved to Kangaroo Pt back in 1972 with his family to firstly operate the Kiosk, then with his first wife Helen, they built and managed, what became a very successful houseboat hire business from the site up until 1987. Doug's working life before Brooklyn was in the family tug boat business, J Fenwick & Co, where he rose to position of Managing Director. In 1985 Doug in partnership with his son Andrew commenced the construction of Fenwicks Marina at its present location in Brooklyn Rd.

Doug grew up in Drummoyne and from an early age discovered a love of the water and in particular sailing, racing skiffs through to 16-footers on Sydney Harbour in his youth before having a long association with the Dragon class. After his retirement in early 2000 he returned to sailing with several Etchell's, the last being "Slipnott", which he sailed out of Hawkesbury River Sailing Club till his late 70's.

During his time in Brooklyn he discovered lawn bowling and this became a great passion and hobby, becoming a member of Mooney Mooney and in later years Berowra bowling club until its closure.

Doug's love for Brooklyn and passion of Rugby Union was increasable strong. In his later years he was one of the founding members who established the Brooklyn Rugby Club, which caters for local fanatics to gather and watch, rather than play. The club also being very successful in raised money for many local groups and organizations. This is where he was affectionately named and became known as Captain Fenwick.

In later years Doug's mobility suffered and this necessitated his move away, firstly to a retirement village in Cherrybrook and then, two years ago, to Regis Nursing Home in Hornsby where he passed away quietly. Doug never liked to be away from his beloved Brooklyn, taking every opportunity to visit, especially to meet his many local friends and enjoy a long lunch at The King Tide Café in town.

Due to the restriction on funerals, Doug's service was a quiet affair with only his immediate family present. It was held at Lady Anne Funerals West Ryde on Saturday 2nd of May. The family will look to hold a memorial service and celebration of his life locally once Covid 19 restrictions are eased to allow such gatherings.



Andrew Fenwick CMM
Fenwicks Marina 02 9985 7633
www.fenwicksmarina.com.au

Station Lift Sweep

The Hawkesbury River Railway Station lift is starting to take shape and the excitement grows.

To celebrate the opening, we are running a sweep. You are invited to buy a numbered ticket for \$5 that will match with a time and date shown on a separate list. For example, your ticket B46 - 9:30am on the 8th of December 2020.

You will not know the time and date for your numbered ticket until all tickets are sold. The time and date closest to the official ribbon cutting opening will win \$100 and runner up \$50, and will get one of the first rides up on the lift. All proceeds to go to the BCA to be used for the benefit of the lower Hawkesbury River Community. Details still to be finalised.

*No more sore knees if you please
We are getting a lift at the station
Keep in touch with the BCA
Who will explain the situation*

*Bob Davis
beesbob@hotmail.com*



My Corona Story

I'm Julie and I started my local cleaning company 10 years ago. My business has been impacted during this crisis. At the beginning of the pandemic I did courses in Infection Control and Covid 19 safety and hygiene and I lost clients for various reasons.

It's rare to have any time to fit new houses but I find myself staying home and staying safe 5 1/2 days a week. So, if you need a cleaner now is the time to give me a call.

I also sell my Handcrafted Jewels at local markets, unfortunately these too have been affected.

I have spent my extra time getting creative and setting up my online shop with all my treasures. So, if you have time check that out, go to my webpage at:

<https://etsy.me/2AUCgq2>

*I love being a part of this awesome community.
Julie Steel: buzznjuju@gmail.com*

Casey's Coffee

Yes! Brooklyn has many beautiful, friendly, talented residents.

In this current situation where social distancing is in force, we feel more than ever pleased to live in Brooklyn Village.

A beautiful young lady Casey who operates Homer's Kitchen with her mum Vanessa and their Cavoodle Wilma. We enjoy going to Homer's Kitchen. I reckon there is an art to making good coffee. Casey makes us coffee just what we like, and banana bread toasted, buttered, cut in half. Perfect! Thank you Casey.

Carefully, we walk across to the road not to spill hot coffee in our hand, slowly walking to the wharf. There we sit in the shade, appreciating our coffee with banana bread. Delicious!!

Grateful to this wonderful Brooklyn.

*Couple from Peat Street
Kate Fujii: cherrypie21@bigpond.com*



Brooklyn's Chemist

I would like to show my appreciation to Tamer our local chemist, for the excellent advice and service he provides to our community.

I went to him to buy ointment for a rash on my hand. Tamer looked at the hand and suggested I see a GP, which I did. He referred me to a Dermatologist. To cut it short, within a week I was being operated on in Hornsby Hospital for the removal of cancer.

Had I not been advised by Tamer, I would still be rubbing ointment on my hand.

Thank you, Tamer,

Ian Allan: Brooklyn

A Dissertation from Isolation

In these troubling times many people have discovered previously unknown joys.

Some have been baking sourdough for the first time, others have started a veggie garden, daily exercise has become a priority and the word 'zoom' has taken on a new meaning for the Luddites amongst us.

Pub and club goers have experienced the pleasures of drinking at home and for a short time we rejoiced in the lack of boat trailers at 3 a.m. Bliss.

With much more time on my hands I have been indulging myself with a little etymology via the Oxford English Dictionary.

Page 1050 defines the word "pandemic" as:

1. Adj. (of disease) prevalent over a whole country or the world

2. N. an outbreak of such a disease,

and gives the derivation as being from the Greek, prefix pan- all, demos- people.

The snow ball effect has resulted in my consideration of ensuing words whose meanings seem to be in need of editing in light of current circumstances, so I have compiled a list of suggested amendments for the consideration of other residents.

Oxford English Dictionary (OED)	Suggested
Pandemonium: uproar, confusion	Health management system, USA
Pander: gratify, indulge	The failure to contradict blatant falsehoods and demonstrated stupidity in presidential tweets.
Pandora's box: source of unforeseen evils	A market place for wild animals generally considered unfit for consumption
Panegyric: laudatory discourse	Recognition of the fact that essential workers have a right to decent wages rather than exploitation
Pang: sharp pain or painful emotion	Sudden feeling of regret for having prematurely announced a budget surplus
Pangolin: an ant eating mammal	Culinary ingredient of an exotic dish and useless medicament
Panic: sudden uncontrollable fear or alarm	Method of purchasing goods in an irrational and selfish manner sometimes resulting in violence
Panjandrum: pompous or pretentious official	Alan Jones (not an official but if the cap fits...)
Pantry: small room or cupboard in which crockery, cutlery, table linen are stored	Warehouse facility for rice, pasta and toilet paper

I'm sure you will see that this is a pressing matter, but, with another 1063 pages to be updated this could take a while, so I will leave the last word(s) up to you, my fellow linguists. Start now!

Marg McDonell: lbite@icloud.com

Covid Times

For me, it's been a luxury after so many years commuting that I had the chance working from home remotely. I work currently in a service providing information, training and support to foster, relative and kin carers in NSW.

Everyday, working from the gallery /office, I enjoy seeing many in the community - joggers, couples exercising, young families, friends passing by, old and young, waiting for a coffee at Homer's Cafe next door, waving as we go, social distancing. It's been time to create a bit more space, a bit more time to enjoy and value what we have and what we don't want to lose. Here I am in my gallery office with my husband's works around me.



If you see me say hello!

Miriam Moloney

Marine Rescue Hawkesbury

Volunteers from Marine Rescue Hawkesbury have remained on-call during Covid-19 with many members working from home to assist in monitoring marine traffic and maintaining their skills. Duty Officer Mike Bevan is pictured monitoring Sea Hawke from his home office and Member Sarah Adair worked on her Leading Crew workbook with the assistance of her Duty Officer via telephone. Crews have had to standby in their own homes and attend the base only for call outs and try to maintain social distancing from other crew members as well as members of the public during assists.

Both Tim Fawcett and Sarah Adair are locals. Tim resides at Brooklyn And Sarah at Cheero Point.



Duty Officer Tim Fawcett with his home radio setup overlooking Brooklyn.



Duty Officer Mike Bevan using Sea Hawke



*Sarah Adair using the time to complete training
Crew members Sarah Adair and Natalia Ledger on
duty maintaining correct social distancing ->*



*Sarah Adair: PR and Media Officer
Marine Rescue NSW Hawkesbury Unit
Base: 02 9985-9012*

Reduced Electricity Costs - Free solar on offer

Residents living in the Central Coast region or postcode 2083 may be eligible to participate in the NSW Government trial to help people on low incomes reduce their electricity bills by installing free 3 kilowatt solar systems on their homes. The target audience for the trial is low income homeowners that hold a valid Pensioner Concession Card or Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card and are currently receiving the Low Income Household Rebate.

Participants will need to agree to no longer receive the \$285 annual Low Income Household Rebate on their electricity bill, and should receive up to \$600 in savings on their electricity bill per year.

*Julie Ryland Strategy Manager
Hornsby Shire Council 02 9847 6773 jryland@hornsby.nsw.gov.au*

So How Did Corona Affect Real Estate Locally?

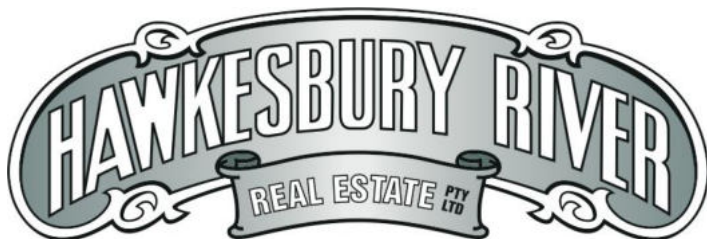
Interestingly, there have been a lot more enquiries from people wanting to escape the big smoke and find seclusion (and probably safety) in our unique area.

Across the state auctions were cancelled or televised, and open for inspections were limited to 1 person at a time - of course with sanitiser and gloves provided!

So, the upshot is that we experienced genuine interest and offers on properties, some even flying out the door in "off market" sales, and rentals were fairly brisk too.

We'd like to welcome new members to our beautiful riverside community and look forward to sharing our special lifestyle with you.

If you have any questions regarding the current sales or rentals, or you require an appraisal, feel free to contact either Paul Muscat or myself for an honest & educated opinion.



Liz Surrent
0414 733 714

<http://hawkesburyriverrealestate.com.au/>

est 1979

Covid-2083

I've stayed at home but not in bed
And baked some Irish Soda Bread
I've gone for walks five days a week
Used Skype and Zoom to meet and speak
To long lost friends for whom I care
And they for me with lots to share
About how they're doing in these strange times
I've written songs, poetry and rhymes
Sold three guitars bought only one
Because I own enough to have my fun
I've pitched for work I've yet to win
Hence my bank account is getting thin
I've been gardening a lot which I rarely do
Shredding office files fixing things too
Inventing tasks ignoring bad news
To ensure I escape the Brooklyn Blues
I've noticed people now stop and chat
About 'how are you' and this and that
It seems they're a little nicer than before
And the conversation is never poor
I now hope that when Covid goes away
Our better nature is here to stay

© Chris Martin Murphy Brooklyn NSW 2083 15/05/2020



Keeping It Real

We're reconnecting with the community more than ever during this time. Everyone's out working in their yards, and as we go on our walks, we're now stopping to chat more than ever. Seeing familiar faces on the Great Northern Walk is also great fun, and we've even met new people from the community we never had the chance to meet before!

We've also become more self-sustainable by growing our own vegies and fruit trees. My father was a Polish immigrant and an agriculturalist/horticulturalist who taught me a lot of great gardening skills, and there's nothing like growing your own and really tasting the difference. (One of my favourite memories was coming home from school and my mid-afternoon snack was and biting into a huge delicious vine ripened tomato or ever so sweet sugar plum!)

Watching our first tomato and zucchini flowers bloom also feels like a great accomplishment! And the news also spread to the local wallaby community, caught here on camera telling his friends about the new patch that just opened up that they could raid at any moment!



When you look back in history, the first settlers struggled to even get any crops to grow, so urban horticulture seems pretty easy now in comparison, but we've just never had the time to really give it a go. And in the spirit of creative bread making, we're slowly perfecting the baking skills of the first settlers by making damper in the fire pit, which is just so much fun for the family!

One day we might have our own Brooklyn Farmers Markets where we could swap local produce, and in the process also inspire self-sustainable urban farming to future generations we hope.

Sylvia and Ian Cameron: Bridge St Brooklyn

Hawkesbury River Child Care Centre

Hawkesbury River Child Care Centre has been working hard to support the Brooklyn community throughout the coronavirus situation. Our staff have put in a huge effort to keep the Centre safe and clean for our children who have continued to attend, as well as teaching them about handwashing and good hygiene to keep ourselves healthy and helping them to understand "social distancing" and the changes that they have been experiencing (along with us all!).

For the children who have been staying at home during this time, the staff have set up Zoom calls to allow them to join in group time and storytime with their friends and teachers at the Centre. Staff have also provided a "pick up station" with art and craft materials for our little artists to work at home, as well as providing some artistic inspiration!

The Centre has waived the notice period for suspending enrolments back in March so that families could keep kids at home without having to pay additional amounts. As the number of children attending starts to increase, we are working hard to allow as many children back as possible. The childcare support package and JobKeeper arrangements have allowed us to keep operating, but we still face some challenges in returning to normal operation.

Thank you to everyone for bearing with us as we navigate these difficult times, and thank to you our staff, the children and their families and the Brooklyn community for supporting us through these unusual times.

Caitlin Whale: caitlinwhale@gmail.com

Brooklyn Public School – Students' Perspectives

These are extracts from the children's stories. You can see the full stories on the BCA's website at <http://brooklyncommunity.org.au/about-bca/gatewaynewsletter/>

My Covid-19 Story: Sarah Year 6

This is the day I decided to say something about what I'm doing in the Covid-19 situation. This might be very hard to believe, but I have a dad as old as 76 years old. That might sound weird but it's true. Now that my dad is older than 65, we have to take extra precautions. Doing this we had to buy so much hand sanitizer but we couldn't, because everyone else had the same idea. All the shops were out and I was panicking. I thought if we didn't get them in time my dad was going to get it and die. But we got some in the end because the shops ordered millions in Erina Fair, and that meant it all turned out good for the hand sanitizer.

The total cases now are 7,133 and the cases recovered are 6,553. I am so happy with that because I was afraid that I was going to get it and pass it on to my mum and dad. My parents are very special to me and I don't want to lose them. So, we can't be complacent and we have to keep social distancing and sanitize so that there are no more cases in the country.

A Day in Lockdown: Jack Year 6

Every morning I wake up, go down stairs, just a normal day. Except I'm in lockdown, we can't go anywhere and I mean almost anywhere. The only place you can go is shops for the essentials. At the moment children are doing online school, except if their parents are essential workers or if unable to care for them for whatever reason.

I was lucky, it could have been a lot worse, many people have it worse than me. Many things did change my life. You have got to change the way you live and the way you do every day things. But things will always change and things will get in your way, but you don't have time to worry about everything in life, Life is too short to worry about everything. When things change, change with it. Slowly life will return to normal but only if we do the right things. Follow the rules that are made to keep us safe and do our bit we'll make it through.

My life in the time of the Coronavirus: Catherine Year 5

School was the place I loved to see my friends and having a good time.

The good thing was that we got hot food and that we had sleep-ins and we didn't have to wear school uniforms. I loved home schooling but it was lonely. I had no contact with my friends. But the good thing is that I got to wear my Harry Potter t-shirt, my favourite shirt in my wardrobe.

Covid-19 Birthday: Sam Year 5

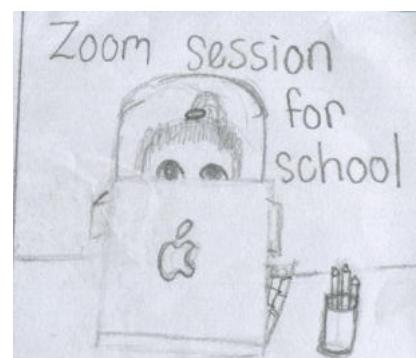
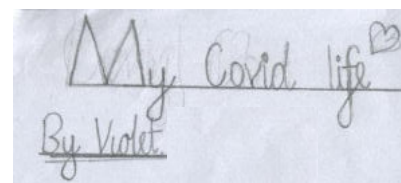
During Covid-19 it was my dad's 50" birthday.

We had a fire in our backyard and we had jumbo marshmallows! We had a delicious dinner and we had a yummy dessert and got my dad lots of amazing presents, I got my dad caramel slice and a favourites box. My dad got a scratchy card in the mail and won a second try at the scratchy! He also got a lottery ticket, I wonder if we will win?

27/5/2020 Elizabeth



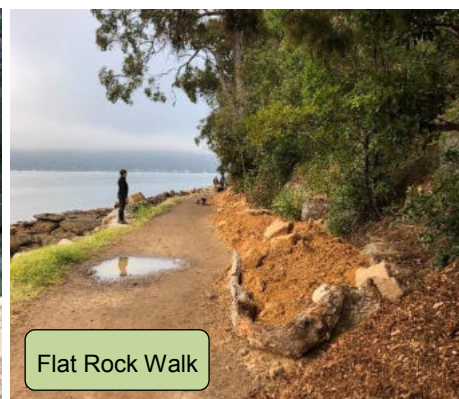
27/5/2020 Nim



Hornsby Council at Work in Brooklyn



Salt Pan Reserve



Flat Rock Walk



Upper McKell Park

Photos by Karen Arnold: karenarnold@iinet.net.au

Scheduled Council Work

- 2019/2020 Upper McKell Park furniture renewals, including picnic shelters, seating, bbqs, scheduled for installation by June 2020.
- 2020/2021 Brooklyn Wharf upgrade with pontoon - Stage 1
- 2020/2021 McKell Park tidal pool refurbishment
- 2020/2021 Brooklyn Park tennis court facility renewal

Brooklyn Community Health Centre

Brooklyn Community Health Centre has undergone a few changes during the month of May as, along with the rest of our wonderful country, we try to adapt and overcome.

Initially the big unknown was how quickly the virus would spread. Accordingly, in an effort to maintain staff numbers at a level that would adequately care for anticipated large numbers of Covid patients, it was decided to adopt telephone consultations rather than 'face-to-face' with the senior doctors. This system facilitated the opportunity for the senior doctors to work from home, further minimising the chance of doctor/public cross infection. This is an approach that has been implemented by numerous medical providers across the nation. In addition, in the current climate, no new patients will be registered. This is temporary until further notice.

Monitoring the health of staff has been strict, as it should be. Any staff member that had the slightest symptom – tickle in the throat for example – was tested for Covid and could not return to work until given the all-clear. This impacted upon the practice intermittently and therefore the decision was made to close the Centre on Fridays for the month of May due to an expected lower staff base. (Please note: I work Monday to Thursday managing the Community Health component of the Centre whilst the GP Unit use the Centre on Fridays utilising their own staff.)

Promisingly, Australia is weathering the storm quite well compared to other countries world-wide. Consequently, the GP Unit section of the Community Health Centre will resume daily surgeries from 1st June. The senior doctors will still be conducting telephone consults, however there will be junior doctors available for face-to-face appointments. As per usual, the surgery is by appointment only.

Allied health, eg podiatry, is business as usual at the Centre. Additionally, the shower is utilised daily. Meetings between myself and the hospital are conducted by Zoom. I, like so many others, am getting my head around new technology and means of communication. Often with amusing consequences. A recent Management Advisory Committee Zoom meeting comes to mind.

Vicki-lynn Swain
Brooklyn Community Health Centre Co-ordinator
VickiLynn.Swain@health.nsw.gov.au

Patty Rose

Patricia Rose, known to many as Auntie Pat or Patty, passed away on Monday 18 May 2020.

She lived and loved living in Brooklyn for the past 85 years.


As a very popular resident, she was an avid gardener who loved sharing cuttings with all. Dancing was her passion, actually leaving town to go to dances, and another being a film buff. As well as playing tennis, she was also in charge of the tennis courts key. In recent years, she didn't like to miss her bingo.

She also participated in Brooklyn's chair yoga, and the photo shows her enjoying the bike ride in 2019.

Patty was a friend to all.... The vision of her walking with her little white dog Honey will live in our memories.

Nancy Davis



**NSW Government
COVID-19 Response**

From 1 June, travel restrictions will change in NSW.

If you are a NSW resident:

- You can visit anywhere in regional NSW for recreation and holiday purposes
- Some caravan parks and camping grounds will be open
- Call ahead to confirm any bookings
- National park visitors should check nationalparks.nsw.gov.au to learn more

Follow physical distancing and good hygiene practice

- Public health advice is still in place

Interstate travel to NSW

- You may now travel to NSW for a holiday
- You must follow the rules of your home state or territory when returning

National Coronavirus Health Information Line
1800 020 080

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WELCOMES BACK
(SOME!) SEATING...**

CAPACITY OF 10, BOOKINGS ADVISED

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The Riverboat Postman

Sunday March 22, 2020. I heard the announcements on the news in Perth, while Ben and Justin were busy running the usual 'Sunday on the Hawkesbury' cruise. Today was going to be our last cruising day for a very long time. Thank you, Covid-19.

Monday March 23, 2020. Ben and Justin took one boat home to Fishermans Point, and tied up the other two for the long term. Cheyenne and Kate began the calls to about a thousand people to cancel their bookings and refund their payments, and the mail went up river in Tom's tinny.

These days, our entire business rests on the shoulders of Tom Bettenson, Natalie Smith and Kate Glenn. Every weekday sees these three meeting the mail vans, signing for all the crazy stuff the river residents have ordered online, piling it into one of our runabouts and heading out onto the magical Hawkesbury to deliver it all. Clearly the internet reception has not been interrupted, as there's at least double the usual number of parcels – EVERYONE has redefined their version of essential!

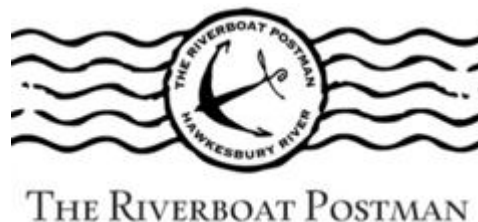
I am busy claiming every bit of assistance there is to be claimed to get us through to the other side of this. We have 19 crew on JobKeeper – 16 of those are 2083 locals – which may be complicated and expensive but is absolutely saving the day. Australia Post has also come to the party to ensure the mail service can continue during the shutdown.

Ben is supervising everything – ensuring the big boats are still floating, the small boats are operational and the show is ready to start again at a moment's notice. This is no small feat.

You may have noticed our emblazoned red ute missing from the streets of Brooklyn – on the afternoon of Monday March 23, Justin packed up like Mad Max and bolted for the South Australian border before it closed on Tuesday at 4pm. He made it with only hours to spare, and then headed more slowly for the closed WA border and Perth (where Alex goes to school) and two weeks of home quarantine. The trip turned out to be great advertising and he met a number of recent grey nomad Postman passengers on the road. Now he's finally catching up on long overdue paperwork, and missing the river.

We are not making plans for a return just yet. Our customer demographic is the one most vulnerable to this virus, and so we join the rest of the world in the wait for a vaccine. There will be no 'soft opening' for The Riverboat Postman in July or August – we do not want to become the Ruby Princess or Newmarch House of the Hawkesbury. Sometimes the old adage 'all publicity is good publicity' is simply not true.

The Riverboat Postman has some phoenix qualities. Already we are defiantly taking coach group bookings for next year. The mail run has risen from the ashes many times before, and will do so again – that we can promise!






Do I see an ad for
Dan Murphy?

Catherine Pignèguy
The Riverboat Postman
bookings@riverboatpostman.com.au
Office | +61 9985 9900 Mobile | +61 400 600 111

The Pros and Cons of Social Isolation in the time of Covid 19

Since Australia went into lockdown, I have discovered a number of interesting facts.

When Robert retired at the end of December, I was prepared for the retirement adjustments. But then, instead of the freedom to get up and go anytime, we bunkered down at home. Travelling to Brisbane to attend a birthday party *cancelled*, trip to meet friends for a weekend *cancelled*, yoga classes and tennis *cancelled*. We were sent into lockdown. But it has not been all "doom and gloom".

Pros	Cons	
We are home all the time	We are home all the time	
Our sons are very concerned for us	Our sons are very bossy	
We are going for more walks together	<i>Oh no! not another walk!</i>	
SDC's (Socially Distanced Coffee) have taken the place of eating out	1.5m apart on the footpath is a challenge	
Shopping online	Lucky we had already stocked up on toilet rolls! But frozen beanshoots leave a lot to be desired.	
Lots of DIY projects getting done	<i>There is always another project waiting on my list</i>	
Lots of families out walking	We are seeing people we never knew lived here	
My husband made a bookcase	<i>Only taken 15 years to remove the empty wine racks!</i>	
Using Zoom to meet friends and colleagues	Learning how to Zoom	

Karen Arnold: karenarnold@iinet.net.au

Hawkesbury River Station Upgrade

From 6am Saturday 6 June 2020 to 9pm Monday 8 June 2020 (June long weekend), work will be carried out during a scheduled Sydney Trains track work weekend. Equipment to be used includes a 250-tonne mobile crane with four semi-trailers of equipment and other heavy equipment. *No train services will operate and the station will be closed during this time.*

Traffic and Parking Changes

To enable this work, motorists need to remove their vehicles by Wednesday 3 June 2020 from the 15 car spaces in the Dangar Road car park. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. The spaces will be available again from Tuesday 9 June 2020.

Due to the location of the crane and construction activities on the June long weekend, the Dangar Road bus stop will be temporarily relocated to Brooklyn Road in front of the Anglers Rest Hotel.

Access to the marina will be maintained at all times. There will be restricted access to the Long Island Pier. Traffic control will be located on Brooklyn Road and Dangar Road to manage and direct traffic.

For urgent enquiries regarding construction activities, please call 24 hours 1800 775 465.

Alysia Norris: Hawkesbury River Station Upgrade team
projects@transport.nsw.gov.au



The 3801 and Bob Buie

The famous old steam engine 3801 paid Brooklyn a visit this week, one of many over the years. Her link with Brooklyn is tied up with World war 1 and our own Bob Buie who claimed to have shot down the "The Red Baron". Bob's army number was 3801 and this was enough to encourage the engine driver to salute a grand old soldier with a toot toot from a grand old steam engine each time he passed through Brooklyn.

One of the fondest memories I have of living in Brooklyn is the sound of the Flying Scotsman and the 3801 steaming in tandem up the Cowan bank, Bev and I were sitting at the stern of our boat at the time. We stood and drank a toast to steam.

History of the 3801

3801 (pronounced Thirty-eight o-one) is a 4-6-2 steam locomotive operated by the New South Wales Government Railways between 1943 and 1976. It is arguably Australia's most famous steam locomotive, being the only one to have visited all mainland states and territories. The 38 class were first conceived in 1938, and suffered many delays during construction due to material shortages caused by World War II. 3801 was the first engine completed and entered service in 1943. It became known at the time as the Grey Nurse due to its drab, all grey colour scheme, a wartime camouflage scheme. In December 1956, 3801 was the first in its class to accrue 1 million miles.



In early 1963, 3801 was given a major overhaul during which it was repainted green. It was often used on special services operated by railway heritage organisations, the most famous being a non-stop run from Sydney to Newcastle in June 1964. Just failing to break the two-hour barrier, this remained the fastest journey from Sydney to Newcastle until bettered by an XPT in 1988.

From April 1974, all steam trains were barred from New South Wales main lines, however during July of that year 3801 was allowed back to be used as the star of the award-winning film *A Steam Train Passes*. In May 1990, 3801 was involved in the Cowan rail disaster. 3801 was struggling to climb the Cowan Bank (on the Sydney side of the Hawkesbury River) when returning from the Morpeth Jazz Festival when a CityRail Interurban passenger service crashed into the back of 3801's train. Six people lost their lives.

The locomotive continued to haul day trips and longer excursions until withdrawn from service for a major overhaul at the end of 2007. The relaunch of the locomotive was originally planned for March 2020 leading up to the locomotives planned presence at several upcoming events but due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic the relaunch was postponed indefinitely.

Breaking News on the 3801

Locomotive 3801 has undertaken its biggest test yet!

The 'adhesion test' saw 3801 haul 318-tonnes in simulated wet weather conditions along steep 1-in-40 grades, between Hawkesbury River and Cowan in Sydney's north. This is a condition for all new locomotives being registered for use on the Sydney Trains network and given 3801 has received an extensive overhaul, it was required to undergo this rigorous testing.

You can see videos of 3801: <https://www.thnsw.com.au/post/locomotive-3801-revealed>

As you'll see, the engine passed with flying colours!

Bob Davis, Peter Davis & the Editor



Our cleaning lady just called and told us she will be working from home and will send us instructions on what to do.



A Time for Zooming!

First it was the drought, then the unprecedented bushfires, followed by the flood and now the virus. The years 2019/2020 will be a time we will never forget.

But I am so grateful we live in Brooklyn. We would look out of our windows and say, well if you are going to be self-isolating this is the place to be! Many of our friends said the same thing, 'can you imagine if you were stuck in a two-bedroom apartment in the city!' But that is why we all choose to live here, the river, the bush and the people. We took many walks up the back of our house into the park and enjoyed the autumn days with the sun streaming through the trees. We played board games, we baked, we got take away from the restaurants and cafes and even had burgers delivered to our door! And of course, Ross continued to ride his bike as usual.

During our walks into town and around the point it almost felt like normal being able to talk with friends and catch up, all of course standing 1.5 meters away. I was anxious watching the numbers climb and worried about others and their mental health. To help my mental state, I joined the Kindness Pandemic on Facebook and watched SGN - some good new network created by an actor John Krasinski on YouTube. I listened to one of my friends, a psychologist, on a podcast and her message was don't be hard on yourself or your kids. So I tried to heed this advice.



It was a time for zooming! We had our Friday happy hour zoom call with friends, zoom calls with family, college friends and even my childhood friends. The extra time at home allowed for us to reconnect. There was zooming with work colleagues and with BCA committee members and Telehealth calls with our doctors. We were fortunate that our small business supports essential services, so we were able to continue working and employing people, so I was kept busy with work.

Sure, there have been some low days and it has been hard realizing we will have to cancel our trip to the US to see friends and family and celebrate our wedding anniversary but overall we are doing ok. Sometimes I felt that I wasn't getting enough accomplished after looking at social media and the many people that were discussing their Marie Kondo work, exercising, planting new gardens, writing books, and making sourdough bread. But our family got along, didn't fight too often and I did get one room cleaned up! Everyone has been so generous and kind, phone calls made to ensure the elderly were getting food and to check on their health, to Joes Pizza at Berowra giving us some of his pizza dough which was unavailable at the Berowra Coles (and still is!)

Everyone keeps talking about the new normal. Sorry to use the clichés but what does that mean? I think a lot more people were able to experience the increase of kindness to strangers, perhaps something we take for granted in our hometown. I can only hope that this continues across all of Australia.

Strange, but heart-warming times indeed.

Di Bowles BCA President & Brooklyn Resident

Homer's Kitchen is still standing!

The pandemic hasn't beaten us! We're still here smiling!

Best believe Homer's Kitchen is still offering plenty and not long to go we will all be back to normal.

Don't forget about our family quiches, pies and fruit boxes! Anybody needing grocery shopping or a dinner to be sorted make sure to ring us and we will be more than happy to help!

Come and join us in our cosy indoor seating with plenty of hot meals to keep you warm and satisfied!

We hope everyone is safe and staying well and we can't wait to hear from you soon!

Casey Homer



The Cottage at Brooklyn

As you might be aware, we have closed the Cottage due to the health restrictions. We do not have a reopening date yet as we need to take into account that most of our volunteers are more susceptible to COVID-19 (coronavirus) and we need to protect them.

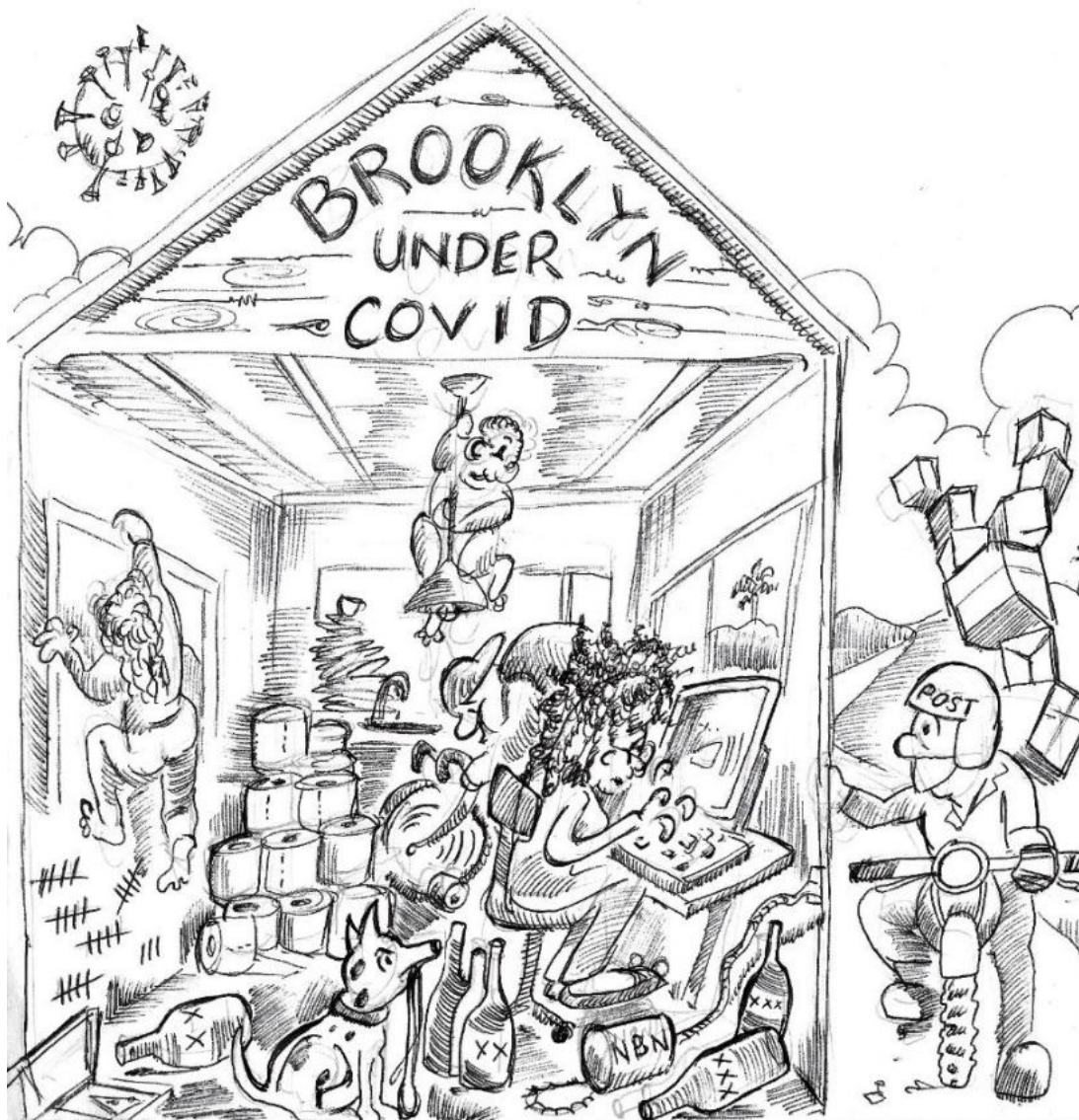
In the meantime, a new exhibition was hung up by our local artist Mel Anderson. Her latest body of work is an attempt to connect the various creative processes she has been working with over the last decade and integrate them together into a new form. Drawing together photography, found materials, digital design and illustration, she has been aiming to build on these processes to extend her work into new territories.

The culmination of a decade of river living and some difficult life challenges has encouraged Mel to use creativity and the process of art making to make sense of the world. Her current focus is on printmaking using the cyanotype process as a framework for experimentation.

For more information on the virtual exhibition please visit <https://melanderson.com.au/> and request a catalogue if you are interested in purchasing any pieces.

We look forward to starting up again when it is safe for us to do so. Until then, find us at our Facebook page.

Di Bowles



Cartoon by Peter Davis Brooklyn Resident