

Gateway

Newsletter of the Brooklyn Community Association

February 2021

Next Issue May 2021

President's Report

2021 has begun! We were very excited to be present at the official lift opening. The lift will provide accessibility to all and perhaps encourage more to take the train to our village. Years of advocacy by everybody has resulted in a massive win for the community! We also are enjoying the upgraded plantings, curbs and the bright red crosswalk. There are plans for further planting and a tidy up to finish the lift area by the Council.

As discussed at the Annual General Meeting, the BCA has been working closely with the Dangar Island League and the Lower Hawkesbury river communities to find a new process for finding solutions to our parking, storage and movement issues in Brooklyn. The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results. We have researched other means for our communities to get together and develop solutions that the majority can agree will work. We have provided this idea to the Council to use for real participation rather than consulting when the Brooklyn Place Plan is presented to the community. We will discuss this solution in more detail at our March 6th meeting.

The Brooklyn Place Plan will be workshopped with the Councillors in late February, and then we will be able to have our say regarding the Plan. From the Council's website "The Place Plan is a practical, community-led action-orientated document with a clear goal to maximise and improve the Brooklyn town centre's functionality and appeal". Because of the Plan, Brooklyn was a focus for the Council last year. Many great outcomes from this process have resulted in improvements. Department heads have visited often and are working together on issues like new signage at Parsley bay, bollards and discussions on what to do about all the trailers at Upper McKell park and, of course, parking. We have also experienced bush regeneration behind The Cottage, creating and continuing the art cottage partnership, new landscaping at Saltpan Reserve, resurfacing the road at Seymour's Creek and more!

We have been in discussions with the Council about the plans for Lower McKell Park. They have the budget now to replace the damaged picnic and seating furniture and new plantings. There is more detail below, make sure you have your say. Another strategy for you to have input is the new Draft off-leash dog park strategy. They are proposing an off-leash area at Saltpan Reserve.

www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/council/noticeboard/your-say/current-exhibitions/Draft-Off-Leash-Dog-Park-Strategy

Please keep informed by visiting the Hornsby Council Website, the BCA website and Facebook page.

Di Bowles, President Brooklyn Community Association

president@brooklyncommunity.org.au

Brooklyn Community Association

General Meeting

10am-12noon Saturday March 6th 2021

Brooklyn Meeting Room 2 Dangar Rd, Brooklyn

BCA Members, Guests and Friends welcome. *Maximum of 50 people allowed under COVID.*

www.brooklyncommunity.org.au

Meeting Dates

Saturday

6-Mar-2021

5-Jun-2021

4-Sep-2021

4-Dec-2021

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 Gary Robertson, Brooklyn's postie and musician, and his associates, who kindly deliver the Gateway in the community.

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. Some pages in the printed form of this edition of the Gateway Newsletter are in black & white, and the online form is in colour. The full colour edition can be found at <http://brooklyncommunity.org.au/about-bca/gatewaynewsletter/>

McKell Park – Proposed Improvement Works.

Hornsby Council is proposing to undertake improvement works at Lower McKell Park, Brooklyn. The aim of the project is to enhance the park along the Hawkesbury River by providing passive recreational spaces, park furniture, rationalising waste, lighting and signage.

- New picnic shelters and park furniture along existing bushland/cliff edge.
- Passive recreational and informal seating areas along foreshore.
- Enhancing grassed areas along Brooklyn baths and providing daybeds.
- Rationalising waste collection, lighting and signage in the park.
- New drinking fountain and outdoor showers.
- Improved access to Brooklyn Baths, a paved foreshore walk to Parsley Bay and restoration of the stairs leading to Federation Lookout are part of future staged works subject to funding availability.



The Landscape Masterplan is available to view at

www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/council/noticeboard/on-exhibition

To provide comments on this proposal, please title your submission “McKell Park Landscape Masterplan – Reference Number F2020/00349” and send to Council at hsc@hornsby.nsw.gov.au by Wednesday March 10th 2021.

Praj Rege Landscape Architect / Project Manager Hornsby Council hsc@hornsby.nsw.gov.au 9847 6401

Chair Yoga Free in Brooklyn Park - Safety under COVID

Chair Yoga is resuming in Brooklyn Park near the RSL Memorial

Day: Thursday morning

Date Beginning: 25th February - to end term Thursday April 1

Time: 10.30-11.30 Chair Yoga

11.30-12.30 Morning Tea Gathering

What to Bring: Foldable Chair, Thermos, Plate

If you are unable to bring a chair or thermos, please contact Jo. ALSO, if you need help with transport - No Problems, we can organise that too.

Visitors welcome, but please call before attending

RSVP to Jo Scarsbrick 0414 240 342

PS: Being positive the Brooklyn Meeting Room is booked for term 2 Chair Yoga. “Same time, same place”.

Abbey Road to Dangar Road Competition and Exhibition

In honour of our newly laid red carpet to the station lift, and in celebration of our local character and characters, we are launching a competition for the best re-creation of The Beatles’ Abbey Road album cover transplanted to our very own Dangar Road.

Send your entries to: dangarroad@bigpond.com

– a high-res photo together with a title, the names of people in the photo (left to right) and any other words you’d like to say about your creation. Entries will be posted to the BCA website, as received – brooklyncommunity.org.au – and put-on display at a local venue for public judging. Prizes, exhibition details etc to be announced; everybody welcome; competition closes end of March.



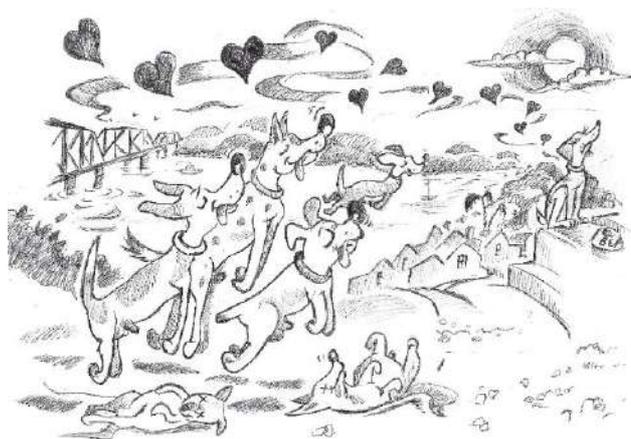
C’mon... someone’s got to be Ringo...

Ruth Steele dangarroad@bigpond.com

The Story of Pat – Part 2

This is Part 2 of the Story of Pat. The Part 1 was published in the December 2020 Gateway.

In Part 1, As neighbours watched horrified, Beatrice the purest, prettiest pedigree Jack Russell had lost her maidenhead to Nelson the ugly rogue, from the wrong side of the mangroves. Read on



Nelson had interrupted Beatrice's pre-arranged dalliance with nobility. Love (it seems) is blind, even in the canine.

Bob and Bev cancelled their overseas holiday, renovations and fancy restaurant bookings and entered persuasive discussions with the now very short list of possible pup owners on the joys of a owning a mongrel.

Few were convinced.

As more and more spots appeared to blacken their hopes and shorten the que of expectant owners an interesting phenomenon took place.

Nelson took to visiting his pups.

Each day he'd traverse the collar deep mud, mangrove spikes and treacherous road to make the trip two kilometres from his ramshackle kennel and sugar bag bed.

Nelson the spoiler of all dreams became a model of fatherhood for man and beast alike.

The shorter the waiting list of owners became the more frequent Nelsons visits.

One day Bob took Beatrice and the pups for a day outing to a prospective buyer. Bev stayed home with fingers crossed. To her great surprise Bev watched as Nelson, on his now regular route and suspecting no-one at home and concerned about his beloved pups began dragging their bean bag bedding to his place two kilometres away.

Love finds a way.

Bev intervened, shooed Nelson home and retrieved the bedding. The incident had a profound affect.

These pups conceived on sacred ground and demanding such attentiveness and risk from their dad may not be pedigree but they were definitely special.

Bob and Bev kept one of the pups; Annie.

Annie was to go on to play a starring role in the infamous dog race scene from the Australian classic movie: The Oyster Farmer.

Both Bob and Bev had roles in that film too though it was widely reported in Brooklyn village that Annie had been paid more.

Another of the pups migrated to New Zealand with a close and tolerant friend of Bobs.

And Pat the dog, the wonder dog shared many memorable experiences with yours truly living and working in Katherine NT, Walgett NSW, and Bowen Mt NSW.

In each of these towns Pat joined the local Rugby club and became not just the only female permitted in the change rooms during half and full times but an enthusiastic mascot and friend of all who met her.

She once stopped a Rugby final mid game by chasing kangaroos between the players and the referee on a Blue Mountains footy field. She was awarded player of the match.

She swam in Banjo Patterson's billabong outside Winton to the refrains of her master's voice singing Waltzing Matilda. She followed camels on cable beach Broome and dug bones from outback dunes.

Pat became a happy and most welcomed mistake.

She died in Brooklyn in a tragic accident and was buried by the waterfall at the back of the fire station. Pat will never be forgotten. The grief of her passing took months to heal.

The life lesson learnt?

If you want a good friend; dog or human? A mongrel is always best.

Peter Davis peter.john.davis@det.nsw.edu.au

Koala Sightings!

Sighting in Brooklyn

On 12th December 2020, word went around Brooklyn that a koala had been sighted crossing Brooklyn Road.



We assume he later headed up into Kuringai Chase National Park where there was safe access over the top by of one of the train tunnels. *Photo by J. Howell*

Sighting near Muogamarra

Then on 2nd February, a National Parks volunteer reported a sighting of a koala at Muogamarra. A koala had crossed the road out of Muogamarra to visit Pie in the Sky.

Two National Parks volunteers went to Pie in the Sky to take some photographs.



Photo by Jim Mitchell

On 13th December, one of our local photographers got a great photograph of him or her in a Eucalypt near some of the houses.



Photo by Luke Glendenning



Photo by Wendy Swinburn

A National Parks ranger advised Wires volunteers on safe relocation back into Muogamarra.

Apparently there has been another possible sighting of a koala on the Sphinx Track.

Are they all the same koala?

*Karen Arnold
karenarnold@iinet.net.au*

Hawkesbury River Station Lift

The Hawkesbury River Railway Station lift was officially opened on Monday February 15th, by Matt Kean, Member for Hornsby and New South Wales Minister for Energy and Environment, watched by a crowd of Brooklyn and River Residents. Hornsby Shire Mayor Phillip Ruddock and NSW Member for Gosford Liesl Tesch were in attendance. Matt also presented the prizes to the winners in the BCA's lift sweep.



Matt Kean MP opening the lift



Matt Kean and Phillip Ruddock with BCA committee members



Matt Kean MP presenting the prizes in the sweep



Brooklyn and River community members at the opening

Robert Arnold info@brooklyncommunity.org.au

Hawkesbury River Radio – History

The Hawkesbury River radio service was proposed to commence in May 1994 on 100.9 FM Stereo, as the "Voice of the Hawkesbury".

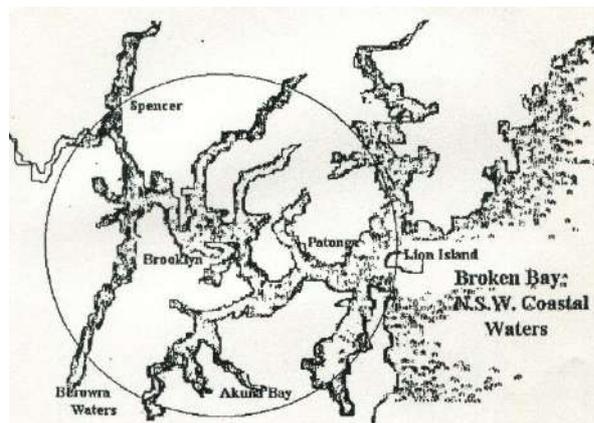
The aim was to provide a high-quality radio service relevant to the local communities' needs and interests. All work was voluntary, with contributions from residents and fundraising by Bob Davis and the team, enticing businesses to advertise on the radio service.

The service was based in The Cottage studio at No 10 Dangar Road, with a transmitting tower on the top of "Tumble Down" Hill (behind Little Wobby).

Six weeks of test transmissions were completed in January 1994, producers and presenters were trained from the local community, and program plans prepared. For the first test transmission, Phillip Ruddock MP participated. The minutes of a later meeting recorded "for the second test transmission ... the music mix should reflect less rock and more middle-of-the-road music".

An application was submitted for a Community Radio Service license, but unfortunately, a Hornsby service was awarded the license, and Hawkesbury River Radio was lost in history.

To quote a news release at the time: "Community Radio heightens community awareness of local issues and creates information links between diverse sectors of the Community". It's a great pity that the application for a license was unsuccessful.



An original graphic of the Service Area

Bob Davis beesbob@hotmail.com & Robert Arnold

The Floating Oyster Wine Bar



Introducing a new era of the first European style, luxury scenic river cruises in Australia!

Designed with luxury in mind with relaxing lounges, fine local oysters, seafood, exclusive Russian Beluga caviar, cheese, pate and charcuterie boards, (and other delectable morsels on the bar menu) and complemented with an eclectic wine, champagne and craft beer range.

The easily accessible single level, wide pontoon boat was brought down from Taree in January and has been lovingly restored to allow passengers to sit back

and relax in style and comfort, with café blinds that open up along the whole boat!

Our philosophy encompasses serenity and exploration, combined with sensory delight, and we Invite you to release your imagination into the magnificent natural wonders of the Hawkesbury river whilst enjoying the finest oysters, caviar and wine.

Cruises will begin on Saturdays and Sundays. Private charters for birthdays, special occasions and weddings are also available on request.

www.thefloatingoyster.com 0408 688 084 info@thefloatingoyster.com

Emergency Preparedness

Hornsby Library recently held an online workshop on Emergency Preparedness.

The recording of the workshop will be uploaded on the Hornsby Council's YouTube channel. (See all Council videos on www.youtube.com/user/HornsbyCouncil/videos).

The Red Cross has released an app called "Get Prepared". It provides a simple easy to use digital platform to help people access information and complete an emergency plan. Get Prepared helps you connect with your key support people, accomplish simple tasks to make you and your loved ones safer, and protect the things that matter most to you.



Karen Arnold & Jo Scarsbrick

The Cottage at Brooklyn – is Open

The Cottage is now open with the calendar filling fast! Our new Art Exhibition has opened. A knitting/crocheting/making group has started up on Wednesdays from 3:30pm. The Autumn Market is on Sunday, March 29th. An evening of music on the lawn is happening on March 13th, with more details below.

We are looking for you, your ideas and help! Expressions of interest are being sought for new workshops, clubs and anything you might imagine! Book clubs, meditation, card clubs, fermenting classes, Paint and sip, and endless possibilities.

Love our history? First Nations, Federation, Railway history, parks history? We need you! Our history room in the cottage needs a freshen up, the rooms, displays and collections in the Cottage all need some love and attention.

Please let us know what you can bring to The Cottage at thecottage@brooklyncommunity.org.au. We are always looking for volunteers to work for 2½ hours on a weekend. You can choose when you want to help out, it's a lot of fun!

Keep up to date by going to The Cottage Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/The-Cottage-at-Brooklyn-107916553992979

Art Exhibition

From February 16th to March 14th, The Cottage is hosting an exhibition of work, "Passages of Brooklyn" by Lyndall Beck and Viola Davis, with collections of work by Mel Anderson and The Press Gang from Wallarobba Art Centre to follow. All artwork is for sale.

Who shot down the RED BARON?



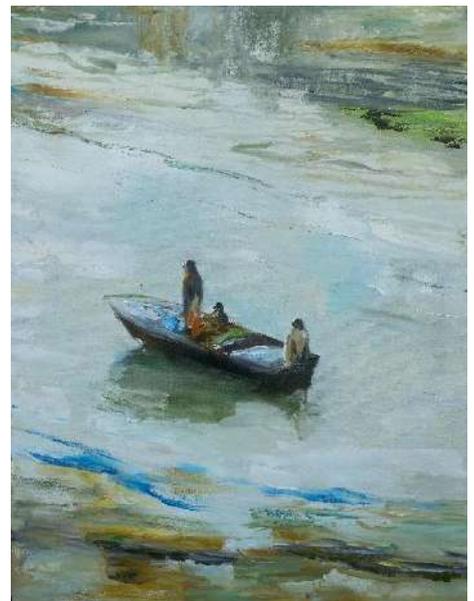
The debate about who shot down the Red Baron goes on. We all know it was Robert Buie, a Brooklyn oyster farmer.

A recording of an interview with an eye witness to this Historic event will be held at The Cottage at 10 Dangar Rd at a date to be advised. Send me an email, and we'll keep you informed.

Bob Davis beesbob@hotmail.com



Lyndall Beck



Viola Davis

Jazz @ the Cottage
Saturday March 13
(on the lawn, weather permitting)
6-8 pm
BYO Picnic + rug / seats

Join us for an evening picnic in the grounds of The Cottage, relaxing to the sound of acclaimed local musician Ray Alldridge with his jazz trio, and vocalist Olivia Simone as they present a range of jazz standards and latin bossa novas in an open-air community concert.

Under Covid regulations, numbers are restricted to 50 persons. Entry will be by pre-allocated ticket, so it is essential that you email thecottage@brooklyncommunity.org.au to secure your ticket. BYO picnic and seating/rugs. Cost: no charge but a donation to The Cottage on the night appreciated.

Bushland Invaders

We are privileged to live in one of Sydney's beauty spots but do you know how degraded our precious bushland is becoming?

This, in turn, leads to loss of habitat for our animals and birds. Do you know if your garden is harbouring introduced species that are contributing to the problem? Many commonly planted species are actually very invasive of our bush, particularly if they are native to South Africa, which has a similar climate and which allows them to proliferate here.



For example, whilst it looks very attractive, *agapanthus* is actually quite weedy because seeds are eaten by birds and are then spread into the bush. So, if you have these in your garden you can help by removing the seed heads and placing them in the bin after the flowers have finished.

To protect our environment, we need to become aware of which species are introduced weeds and which are our native plants. The NSW Government has an excellent app which you can download free which has photos and information as to the species and all the relevant information about its status. It is called "Weedwise".

Margaret McDonnell lbite@bigpond.com.au



Brooklyn
Fitness
Tribe

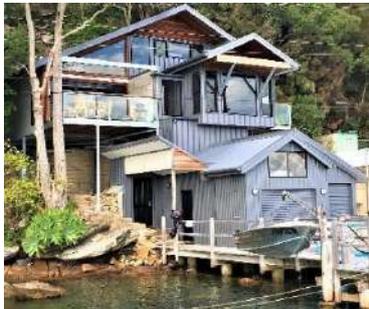
Brooklyn Fitness Tribe have partnered up with the Council Of The Aging (COTA) to bring the Living Longer Living Stronger program to Brooklyn. Living Longer Living Stronger is a personalised strength and balance program focusing on those over the age of 50.

Once enrolled or referred, your instructor will:

- conduct an assessment to understand your needs and goals
- develop a tailored exercise plan for you
- invite you to attend your first Living Longer Living Stronger session

Sessions start in March and will be held on Thursdays from 11-12noon at Baden Powell Hall.

Contact Angela on 0466 792 455 or email angela@brooklynfitnesstribe.com for more information or to book in for your assessment.



Brooklyn, Dangar Island, Mooney Mooney, Cheero Point, Little Wobby

Hawkesbury River Home Builders

9985 1525



ryan@HRHB.com.au

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HIA Award Winner 2017 & 2018

EastCastle



• Hi. I'm Liz and many of you know me from my 25+ years experience here on the river in residential & commercial property sales and managements.

• Over the last few years, I have teamed up with David Easton, another property professional, and we operate a boutique real estate agency that provides specialised sales and property management services across the Northern Sydney and Central Coast regions.

David Easton 0439 407 212
david@eastcastle.com.au
Licenced Agent #20192555

• We're not just newbies - we are fully licensed real estate agents, with combined experience of more than 55 years and extensive industry knowledge

• You're our focus. We have outstanding feedback from our clients because we put you first.

• We combine local knowledge with high standards that set us apart from the rest.

• If you're looking for the right agency, call us now and ask about our special deals

Liz Surrent 0420 759 004
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Licenced Agent #303170

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