

# Brooklyn Community Association Meeting Minutes

Saturday 5 December 2020  
Brooklyn Rural Fire Station

## Welcome, Attendance & Administration

Di Bowles: Chair Robert Arnold: Secretary Lyne Kelleher: Treasurer  
Meeting started at about 3:30pm (following the AGM)

The President thanked Tim O'Mahony, Captain Brooklyn Rural Fire Brigade, for their offer to utilise the Fire Brigade building to host the BCA meeting. She welcomed Councillor Mick Marr, residents and guests to the meeting, and gave an acknowledgment of country.

### Apologies:

Julian Leaser MP, Member for Berowra;	Tom Richmond, Jamie Donnelly; Tim Fawcett;
Matt Kean MP, Member for Hornsby;	Leanne Houlcroft; Jo Henwood; John Milne;
Mayor Hon. Cr Philip Ruddock;	Jeanette & Brian Neary; Brian & Jo Scarsbrick
Councillor Nathan Tilbury;	
Councillor Warren Waddell;	<b>In Attendance:</b>
Councillor Emma Heyde	Councillor Mick Marr

The Presidents Report and the Treasurers Report were presented within the accompanying Annual General Meeting (see separate minutes).

The Secretary read the Minutes of the 7 March 2020 meeting.

- *Motion that the Minutes be accepted: Mathilde Kearny-Kibble, seconded Ian Allen.*

## Guest Speakers

### Tim O'Mahony: Captain Brooklyn Rural Fire Brigade

- Tim welcomed the community to the Brooklyn Rural Fire Station.
  - Tim had recently addressed the Brooklyn Chair Yoga group. The Chair Yoga group is establishing a volunteer group to assist older residents in periods of fire risk. In conjunction with the RFS, the group is developing a plan for bush fire events for older people.
  - Tim recommended that everyone in Brooklyn should have a bushfire plan, and the plan needs to be prepared in advance of an event occurring:
    - Only plan to stay if you are mentally prepared to handle the situation.
    - Leaving by boat is not a solution, recognising the smoke issues in the 2019 fires.
    - If you leave, be prepared to stay away for at least a week.
  - He identified actions to prepare a house for bush fire events:
    - Trim branches and clean gutters
    - Clear "stuff" around the house, and clear furniture off decks
    - Move gas cylinders away from the house
  - He recommended Brooklyn should have an inventory of fire pumps, water tanks and swimming pools, possibly managed by a "BCA emergency coordinator".
  - He identified the Fires Near Me app and the ABC local radio as sources during a fire event.
  - Potential safe places in Brooklyn are the Brooklyn Oval, Saltpan Reserve and the Dairy Farm cricket field. There is not one designated site as it will change due to the fire situation at the time.
- *ACTION: BCA Committee to consider identification of an Emergency Coordinator.*

### Councillor Mick Marr: Hornsby Council

- Hornsby Council has been preparing a number of strategic plans, funded by grants from the NSW Government.
- Council activities had been interrupted when asbestos was found in the main Council building.
- Councillor Marr would like to see increased input from the community into the plans.
- Councillor Marr identified a Water Quality App, which indicates the quality of water in the area around the Brooklyn swimming baths. <https://www.mhlfrit.net/users/HornsbyShireCouncil/>

## Key Brooklyn Issues

### Brooklyn Place Plan

#### *BCA President Di Bowles*

- Council will hold a workshop in February for Councillors to consider the draft plan
- Di noted that despite the delay and changes in the Place Plan, the Council officers have frequently visited Brooklyn in relation to the Place Plan and many improvements have taken place which was noted in the Presidents Report
- The Brooklyn Community Association, in conjunction with the Dangar Island League and other community associations, had proposed a new participation process for the Place Plan, as a “circuit breaker” from earlier failed community consultation/participation processes.

#### *Justin Pigneguy, representing the Tourism Collective*

- The recently established Tourism Collective, representing Lower Hawkesbury businesses, want to participate in the Place Plan and parking solutions, and are happy with the BCA taking the lead with the Council.
- Businesses are keen to see the outcomes of the new station lift on tourism in the area.
- Justin’s business, The Riverboat Postman, were surveying their customers to determine their means of travel to Brooklyn.
- He noted that customers of the over 200 rentals on the river are hard to manage and survey.

### Parsley Bay

#### *BCA President Di Bowles*

- Signage was to be improved in Parsley Bay to better identify rules and to enable compliance.
- Council had assigned a Weekend Ranger to monitor compliance in Parsley Bay and Brooklyn and other busy tourist areas.
- A resident identified that pedestrian access within Parsley Bay needed improvement. William St has a footpath on one side which ends at the carpark, and to get to the waterfront area pedestrians must walk in traffic through the parking lot.

### Council Draft Community and Cultural Facilities Plan

#### *BCA President Di Bowles*

- The BCA and the Brooklyn Hall Committee had made submissions in relation to the Draft Plan, and representatives of the BCA and the Brooklyn Hall Committee had spoken at the Council Meeting.
- The BCA had noted that existing facilities recommended in the Plan would not meet Brooklyn and Lower Hawkesbury requirements, and recommended that the concept of a facility similar to the proposed Parsley Bay facility should be included in the final Plan.
- They noted that the Seniors Building is not being used, and is likely to be lost.
- *MOTION: A sub-committee be formed to investigate the potential for use of the Seniors Building. Proposed: Mathilde Kearny-Kibble, seconded Bob Davis*

### Neighbourhood Watch

#### *Liz Surrent*

- Residents were advised to call Hornsby Police, “000” or the Police Assistance Line 131 444 to report bad behaviour in Brooklyn
- A syringe had been found in Parsley Bay

### Community Sustainability

#### *Ingrid Segovia*

- The Brooklyn Bushcare group will recommence in early 2021
- Dual naming of the Railway Station is slowly underway:
  - The name “Derubbin” is being registered
  - 2 glass panels are planned to be placed during the lift construction, to record the European history and the Aboriginal heritage
- A waste plan is being discussed with Hornsby Council

## **The Cottage at Brooklyn**

*BCA President Di Bowles*

- A Cottage Report had been submitted to Hornsby Council at 1 September 2020.
- The Cottage had reopened (today) on Saturday 5 December 2020.
- The market will be held on Saturday 13 December 2020.
- The Public Liability insurance policy had been re-established for the next 12 months.
- More volunteers are needed to continue to operate The Cottage.

## **Fund Raising**

*Bob Davis*

- The sweep for the lift opening was underway, and tickets would be sold at The Cottage.

## **Close**

The meeting closed at 5pm and the attendees enjoyed coffee and cakes.

# Brooklyn Community Association Summary of Actions & Motions

## Actions & Motions 5 December 2020

- *ACTION: BCA Committee to consider identification of an Emergency Coordinator.*
- *MOTION: A sub-committee be formed to investigate the potential for use of the Seniors Building. Proposed: Mathilde Kearny-Kibble, seconded Bob Davis*

## Actions & Motions 7 March 2020

- *MOTION: The BCA, in conjunction with other Lower Hawkesbury community associations, request the Council to establish a reference group of representatives of each community organisation, to liaise between Council activities and the community in the development of the Place Plan. Proposed by Robert Arnold, seconded by Bob Davis.*
- *ACTION: A shared strategy should be implemented between Brooklyn and Lower Hawkesbury communities on the Community Sustainability actions.*
- *MOTION: The BCA should write to the NRMA about establishing a charging station in Brooklyn. Proposed by Peter Davis, seconded by Di Bowles.*
- *MOTION: The BCA, in conjunction with Lower Hawkesbury communities, should write to the Roads & Maritime Services Agency (cc Council, Estuary Management Committee):*
  - *Request that there be more scrutiny on the use of moorings and users adhering to the lease agreements of ensuring they are checked every year. Boats not used should be removed from moorings to allow moorings to be re-used.*
  - *To query the adequacy of moorings to prevent moorings moving in rough seas.*
  - *To ask what parking support they provide for all the moorings in this area- both at Parsley Bay and Sandbrook Inlet.*

## Actions & Motions 30 November 2019

- *ACTION: It was proposed that a facilitated workshop on Parsley Bay should be held after the Hornsby Council walkaround. Proposed Jo Scarsbrick/seconded Di Bowles. Update to this Action: It was explained in the 7 March meeting that the BCA Executive Committee had decided not to go forward with this action due to the fact that the BCA does not have any authority on development and a workshop needed to be facilitated through Hornsby Council*

## Actions & Motions 15 June 2019

- *MOTION: That the BCA should support the concept of the Parsley Bay Aquatic Facility, keeping in mind the longer-term impacts on Parsley Bay. Proposed by Bob Davis, seconded by Robert Arnold. Approved unanimously by the meeting.*

## Actions & Motions 2 March 2019

- *ACTION: President Di Bowles to email Hornsby Councillors to request information on the status of the Health Centre/Meeting Room land, and what might happen in 5 years' time.*
- *MOTION: That the BCA write to the NSW Government to include the Council, Councillors, State and the Department of Health to review the importance of the health centre in order to keep the health centre front and centre as being very important to our community. We will continue to make sure that it gets discussed, especially with the short-term lease. Proposed by Jeannette Neary, seconded by Karen Arnold*
- *MOTION: That the BCA should progress the proposal and negotiations for the Arts Cottage with Council, for the next meeting. Proposed by Brian Neary, seconded by Nancy Davis.*
- *MOTION: That the BCA should request Council to perform a traffic and people movement and parking study, including weekend activity. Proposed by Jo Scarsbrick, seconded by Karen Arnold.*
- *MOTION: That the BCA write letters of appreciation to Joy Davis and Heather Wadham, who are leaving the Brooklyn community. Proposed Jo Scarsbrick, seconded by Brian Scarsbrick.-*

## **Actions & Motions 1 December 2018**

- *ACTION: Councillor Tilbury to identify responses to the questions relating to electricity at Rest Park, access from Seymour's Creek, handrails on the new steps, an on-call community bus service, and the dinghy facility at Parsley Bay*
- *ACTION: BCA to identify locations for new street furniture.*
- *ACTION: Councillor Tilbury suggested that the BCA could nominate other improvements required in Brooklyn*
- *ACTION: Councillor Tilbury to establish when the land behind Dangar Road become Council Community Land.*
- *MOTION: That the BCA contact Julian Lessor (and Matt Kean) and alert them to the Blackspot program, requesting an improved service. Proposed by Matilde Kearny-Kibble, seconded by Karen Arnold*
- *ACTION: Mr Kean agreed to follow-up on the provision of emergency evacuation services for river residents.*
- *ACTION: Mr Kean to arrange meeting with NSW Railways (to consider use of railway land west of the railway station to address Brooklyn's need for additional parking space)*
- *MOTION: That the Brooklyn Community Association continue to support the HRCC. Proposed by Ingrid Segovia, seconded by Heather Keens.*
- *MOTION: That the BCA ask Council what funds were available from the Masterplan budget at the end of the consultant's work. Proposed by Bob Davis, seconded by Brian Scarsbrick.*
- *MOTION: To direct the BA Committee to form a Sub-Committee to investigate solutions to parking in Brooklyn and link with the council state agencies and Matt Kean, utilising the outcomes of the failed Master Plan. Proposed by Brian Scarsbrick, seconded by Matilde Kearny-Kibble.*
- *MOTION: BCA membership fees should be raised to \$5 per person. Proposed by Brian Scarsbrick, seconded by Mathilde Kearny-Kibble.*