

# Gateway

Newsletter of the Brooklyn Community Association

May 2021

Next Issue August 2021

## President's Report

Have you filled out your Council survey? We know that many of you are thinking, and have told us: *"I have already provided my feedback; why is this time any different?"* We want to share with you why we believe this time it is different.

Place Planning is a new planning process; it is defined on the Council website as:

*Good placemaking is all about collaboration. Based on what stakeholders have told us about their place, Council's Strategic Place Team will work with the community and businesses to further understand how our town and village centres operate. When we know what is working – and what isn't – we can start to make some plans with the community to make some positive changes.*

The Council has launched a new Place Planning Department, and Brooklyn is the first location they are trying out this new strategy. They would like it to work, and they want to have us all involved in informing them what we would like for our community. The Council's new General Manager is leading this increased collaboration with communities.

Many people, businesses and stakeholders across the Lower Hawkesbury and beyond will want to have their say. So, we need to ensure that the people that call Brooklyn their home voice their opinions too. The survey asks you what you think about the vision, some guiding principles and priorities, that are described in detail in the discussion paper.

The Council is including us early in the process via this survey. After they analyse the results and share it with us, the next stage will consider more collaborative engagement with the communities.

When the Place Plan is approved in the future, it will provide short, medium and long term strategies and actions to resolve issues in the village. It might involve rethinking parking, town layout, bus and vehicle access and much more. This process will help us find solutions where the majority will be satisfied.

And finally, why do we need you to participate? At the last BCA meeting, Mayor Philip Ruddock said we need to make some decisions for ourselves, or **they will be made for us**.

So please, click on the link here for all of the information. And if you need any help finding the info, email us at [info@brooklyncommunity.org.au](mailto:info@brooklyncommunity.org.au)

The Discussion Paper and survey is at the link below:

[www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/business/services/my-place/brooklyn-place-plan](http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/business/services/my-place/brooklyn-place-plan)

**Di Bowles, President Brooklyn Community Association**

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

**Survey closes this Sunday  
30 May**

[www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/business/services/my-place/brooklyn-place-plan](http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/business/services/my-place/brooklyn-place-plan)



**Brooklyn Community Association**

**General Meeting**

**10am-12noon Saturday June 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.brooklyncommunity.org.au)

**Meeting Dates**

**Saturday**

6-Mar-2021

5-Jun-2021

4-Sep-2021

4-Dec-2021

3pm & AGM

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## Lower McKell Park

Council has completed design development and is proceeding on the stage one works that reflect new furniture and landscape, without significant changes to the pathways. This will enable a more complete coordination of pathway level and adjustments in stage two when the new bath access work is undertaken during the next calendar year.

Stage one works have been sent out for pricing from contractors and we anticipate having a contractor appointed by late June/July. Work on site will follow this, however, to minimise disruption to the community, works will be coordinated with furniture delivery which often has long lead times for production (up to 12 weeks). As a result, construction is likely to commence in August with as minimal time on site as possible.

Install of new bollards near the bus turning area on Dangar road opposite the station is commencing next week.

*David De-Fina Landscape Co-ordinator | Parks, Trees & Recreation | Hornsby Council  
02 9847 6794 [dde-fina@hornsby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dde-fina@hornsby.nsw.gov.au)*

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## Mangrove Propagation Project

Hornsby Shire Council was successful in securing funding under the 2019 Australian Government's Communities Environment Program to learn how to propagate both species of mangroves that are found along the Hawkesbury River: Grey Mangrove and River Mangrove. Propagation of Grey Mangroves has been achieved in the Shoalhaven River but never trialled in the Hawkesbury.

Under this project, it is fantastic to confirm that Hornsby Council has now pioneered the 'how to' of propagating River Mangroves for the first time in Australia, overcoming this more challenging task as their seeds are smaller, their growth is slower and less information is generally known about the biology of this plant. Council, in partnership with Bushcare volunteers and 'Warada Ngurang' Councils Community Nursery, has been successful in propagating River Mangroves from both seeds and cuttings (under the required Fisheries permit).

For the last year and a half, we have been presenting talks to school students, Scouts and other community groups about the project, and the importance of protecting mangroves. Two educational videos have also been produced and will be publicly available very soon. The project has focused on two areas: Seymours Creek in Brooklyn; and Crosslands Reserve in the upper Berowra Creek. At Seymours Creek, significant site preparation work has been undertaken removing Lantana from the creek shoreline. Phragmites plants are recolonising naturally and other natives are coming through as well. A number of planting events are scheduled for May.



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## Salt Pan Reserve

Vegetation restoration is ongoing at Salt Pan and it looks like the native plants have outnumbered the weeds. Since March, there have been 3 community planting days. Thanks to all volunteers who have helped us plant. The park now has a diverse mix of indigenous trees, shrubs, grasses, sedges and vines, providing enormous habitat potential for local wildlife. Greater Sydney Local Land Services provided grant funding for the restoration works at Salt Pan. There is still more work to do and more planting to be done. Planting dates will be posted through the Gateway. In the meantime, take a walk around Salt Pan and watch it grow.



*Donna Fitton: Tree Care Project Officer | Hornsby Shire Council  
[dffitton@hornsby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dffitton@hornsby.nsw.gov.au) | [www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au](http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au)*

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# Hawkesbury-Nepean River System

## Coastal Management Program - Stage 2

Council have finally received the great news that funding has been secured for progressing the Hawkesbury-Nepean River System Coastal Management Program (CMP) into Stage 2.

Hornsby Council, in partnership with five other Councils with management responsibilities for the Hawkesbury estuary and its catchment, have successfully secured \$317,000 in funds to develop Stage 2 of the Hawkesbury-Nepean CMP, which involves the completion of a technical studies addressing knowledge gaps to better understand riverbank condition, tidal and flooding impacts, and beach erosion in Pittwater. It will improve overall knowledge of how the river system works from a physical and ecological point of view. Further information on the CMP can be found at this website <https://hawkesburynepeancmp.org>. The funding also supports a Project Coordinator position who will provide administrative support, project management, CMP promotion and stakeholder communication and engagement over the next two years. This position is currently being advertised.

*Peter Coad: Natural Resources – Strategy Manager  
Phone: (02) 9847 6766 Email: [pcoad@hornsby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:pcoad@hornsby.nsw.gov.au)*

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## Brooklyn Boardwalk – Mangrove Walk

Hornsby Council is pleased to advise that as part of the 2020/2021 Capital Works Program, Council's selected contractor will be undertaking repairs and upgrades to the Brooklyn Boardwalk. Works are anticipated to commence in late June 2021 with an 8-week program, weather pending.

Works will include:

- Upgrading the deck to a mesh surface
- Installing balustrade with hardwood top rail
- Installing structural reinforcement
- Replacement of seating on viewing platform

Temporary construction fencing compounds and site container will be set up on Brooklyn Park field outskirts for the duration of works for temporary safe storage of materials. During these works, the boardwalk will be closed to the public. Council apologises for any inconvenience and thanks you for your patience. The works will be undertaken between 7:00am to 5:00pm on week days. Should you have any enquiries regarding the works please contact David Green.

*David Green: Project Officer - Bushland Trail Infrastructure| Hornsby Shire Council  
P: 02 9847 6851 e: [dgreen@hornsby.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dgreen@hornsby.nsw.gov.au)*

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## Update on the Community Garden

As part of the development of Hawkesbury River Sustainability Strategy we identified some key areas of focus. One of these is the Community Garden. We are seeking any community members who:

- would be interested in participating in a Garden club
- would have any items that they would be happy to donate. We are looking for compost bin or tumbler, worm farm or large pots.

*Contact Ingrid on 0417 353 970 or [brooklynbobing@gmail.com](mailto:brooklynbobing@gmail.com)*

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## Hornsby Berowra Mens Shed

The new workshop premises for the Hornsby Berowra Mens Shed at Hornsby Council's Bulla Materials Handling Facility was officially opened this week by Matt Kean Member for Hornsby. The Mens Shed welcomes new members from the district.



*Robert Arnold for the Hornsby-Berowra Men's-Shed <[wellumbulla@gmail.com](mailto:wellumbulla@gmail.com)>*



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## Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Visitors Guide

The Bush Tele is busy working on the next annual Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Visitors Guide, which will be out early August this year. (due to Covid it was not published last year)

The Visitors Guide is all about supporting tourism in the area, increasing visitor attraction and showcasing our region as a destination with places to see, things to do and places to eat.

If you have any information or good photos you would like to include for Brooklyn or lower Hawkesbury, send direct to Christine Nichols at The Bush Tele, contact details below.

*The Deadline is 12th June 2021.*

Christine Nichols 0415 381 882  
[www.hkvg.com.au](http://www.hkvg.com.au) [christine@thebushtele.com.au](mailto:christine@thebushtele.com.au)



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## Muogamarra 2021

Muogamarra Nature Reserve is open again in 2021, after being closed last year. It will open for 6 weekends, from Saturday 14 August to Sunday 19 September. You'll see the waratahs, majestic angophoras, old-man banksias, pink boronias and delicate native orchids that Muogamarra is famous for. You'll get the chance to see Aboriginal rock engravings and some wonderful views over the Hawkesbury River and discover the secrets of Muogamarra from the volunteer guides.

You can only visit Muogamarra in 2021 if you *book in advance* on a guided walk. See details below.

Visit [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/visit-a-park/parks/muogamarra-nature-reserve](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/visit-a-park/parks/muogamarra-nature-reserve)



### Bird Gully

Walk along the 4km Bird Gully track around the edge of a hanging swamp. Bring your camera.



### Lloyd Trig and Deerubbin

Discover extraordinary places on a 6.6km walk, 180m above sea level, with views to the Hawkesbury and Barrenjoey Lighthouse.



### Muogamarra highlights

On this 3km walk, you'll learn about John Tipper's foresight in securing this beautiful area for future generations.



### Peats Bight

On this challenging 10km full-day walk, you'll hear about Peats Crater's amazing geological features.

Karen Arnold National Parks Volunteer Chase Alive  
[karenarnold@inet.net.au](mailto:karenarnold@inet.net.au)

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## McKell Park: Cat's Claw Creeper

Council's Bushland Programs team has engaged bush regeneration contractors to conduct specific weed control works in the section of McKell Park directly above the Cottage at 10 Dangar Road. This project was funded as part of the 'Protecting Significant Trees from Vines' Commonwealth grant that Council successfully applied for.

The purpose of the grant was to protect native trees from invasive exotic vines; the main culprit at McKell Park being the rampant Cats Claw Creeper (*Dolichandra unguis-cati*). McKell Park was identified as a suitable site along with 3 other sites across the Shire (Thornleigh, Wahroonga and Berowra Waters).

The gradual removal of Cat's Claw Creeper will proceed over the course of the next few years. This will not only ensure that remnant native trees will continue to thrive, but it will also make sure that the spectacular natural rock formations continue to be enjoyed by Brooklyn's residents and visitors alike.



Cat's Claw Creeper's flowers and stem

## Winter at The Cottage

The Cottage at 10 Dangar Road is definitely back up and open for everyone this year. Launching into our fifth market day on Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup>, there is the added fun of the **Great Gramma bake-off**. This competition challenges locals and professional pie makers to dig out that special gramma pie recipe and produce this old favourite for a panel who remember the flavour! See further details below.

The **markets** offer a range of local honey, produce, plants and crafted wares from our talented community. If you are interested in a market stall for June or our next market on September 5<sup>th</sup>, contact The Cottage.

Through The Cottage we aim to showcase Brooklyn and our glorious river home, and art exhibitions are one way to do this. As **"The River"** exhibition closed on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, The Cottage celebrated its' 4<sup>th</sup> show of the year and we are booking in new exhibitions now.

From 29<sup>th</sup> May – 20<sup>th</sup> June **"Dangar Road"** takes a quirky look at the parallel between the Beatles "Abbey Road" album cover and our town's newest road crossing. Check out some of the entries from local "Fab fours (or more)" and create your own. Send us a message for more details on submitting your photo.

Our first show of the year, **"Postcards from Brooklyn"** gave a view of the town through the eyes of our youngest artists. To complement this an exhibition in late June celebrates young emerging artists as they begin their creative careers. If you are interested in participating, let us know at The Cottage.

Fancy an afternoon in with friends? Check out Wednesday afternoon's **Knitting and Crochet group**, 3.30 – 5pm, open to anyone. Just want to try? There are friendly helpers to guide your needles or give your skills a little lift with a few new stitches. How about a good book? Our current Tuesday evening **Book Club** is full but with the help of our local library contact you could grab some friends and set up another one.

On the literary theme, Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June will see The Cottage aglow as audiences harken to James Joyce's tales of Dublin read by townsfolk at the **Brooklyn Bloomsday** gathering. Let some of the river's best-known voices lead you through passages from *Ulysses* while you warm your hands on a 'tater' and mug o' tea! Further details below.

Whilst on the topic of islands, the current history snippet, **"Escape from Peat Island"** is a reminder of other planning in our vicinity as we have our say in the Council's plan for Brooklyn. With COVID quarantine fresh on our minds, the story alludes to other types of "quarantine".

The Cottage is for everybody and as we kick off **Sunday morning meditation** (beginners welcome, bring ideas as the format evolves and a cushion. For details call Lincoln Mitchell 0414 286 433), a **gardening group** and plan more events, bring your ideas. There's always room for scrabble, cards and other groups, or the story you'd like to see told through art or history. To find out more and sign-up for an activity, contact us on email or Facebook, links below:

### Great Gramma Brooklyn Bake-off



**Calling all cooks, chefs and tastebuds.**

Bake up a storm and bring your finest single serve gramma pie to the competition for the **best** gramma pie in the Hornsby Shire!

**Where:** The Cottage Markets, 10 Dangar Rd, Brooklyn

**When:** Sunday 6 June

Entries: delivered on the day between 10am and 12pm

Judging at 12pm



Prizes include:  
A pie maker,  
trophy and FAME!

If you don't have a gramma, please contact Peter Davis on 0423 254 681

Watch the movie of *Ulysses*: <https://vimeo.com/408613317>  
or the free audio version of *Ulysses*:  
[www.openculture.com/2012/04/james\\_joyces\\_ulysses\\_a\\_free\\_audio\\_book](http://www.openculture.com/2012/04/james_joyces_ulysses_a_free_audio_book)

### Bloomsday in Brooklyn

Please join us in celebrating the work of **James Joyce** and his seminal novel **Ulysses**.

**The Cottage**, 10 Dangar Road Brooklyn  
Wednesday 16th June  
from 6 p.m.



Local identities and friends will be reading passages from the book. Please consider dressing up Edwardian in hat, coat and/or Irish green to join us in this celebration of life and art.

Email: [thecottage@brooklyncommunity.org.au](mailto:thecottage@brooklyncommunity.org.au) FB: [The Cottage at Brooklyn](https://www.facebook.com/TheCottageatBrooklyn)



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## Hawkesbury River Dragons

Stunning surrounding, an all over workout, great company and upholding a tradition that's been around for over 2,000 years, this is what dragon boating means to the people who are helping to make this the fastest growing sport in the world! Dragon boating is unique in that it is suited to both males and females of all ages (our club members range from late twenties to early seventies) and runs all year round.

Hawkesbury River Dragons were the 49th Dragon Boat Club to be formed in NSW. We train at Parsley Bay, Brooklyn on weekend mornings and Wednesday evenings (during daylight saving). We offer three free trial paddles sessions for those who want to give it a try and have spare paddles and life vests for loan. We train in all-weather unless there is a safety risk.

Our club recently celebrated its 10th Birthday and remains strong and committed to fitness and fun (with some serious competition thrown in for good measure). We welcome new members whether social or competitive and would love to have you join us.

It's easy to start! All you need is comfortable active wear, a water bottle and an eagerness to learn a new skill (oh and maybe some dry clothes for a coffee and chat afterwards as you will get wet).

*Liz Hiscock – President Hawkesbury River Dragons  
0414 159 849 [hawkesbury.riverdragons@gmail.com](mailto:hawkesbury.riverdragons@gmail.com)*



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## Peat Island Chapel

Seventy people attended a service on Saturday May 22, with Rev Ron Bower dedicating the Peat Island Chapel to the memory of those who lived and worked at Peat Island.

The Chapel is available for Weddings, Funerals and Naming ceremonies, religious or civil.

Find contact details by searching for "Mooney Mooney Chapel" on Google maps.

*John Andrews 0418 276 492*



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## Printing and Distribution of the Gateway Newsletter

The Gateway Newsletter is produced in both printed form; distributed to some 600 households in Brooklyn and the Lower Hawkesbury; and in online form, by email and on the Brooklyn Community Association's website. The Gateway has been kindly printed by RW Corkery & Co over many years, and distributed by Gary Robertson, Brooklyn's postman.

With the increasing costs for printing and production, the Brooklyn Community Association is moving to more electronic production and distribution of the Gateway.

With the next issue of the Gateway (August 2021), printed copies will be reduced and will be distributed to households and some businesses in Brooklyn village, and a smaller number distributed on Dangar Island. Printed copies will not be distributed to other communities. You will always be able to access the Gateway on the Brooklyn Community Association's website.

If you currently receive a printed copy, and are not included in the future distribution above, and you wish to receive the Gateway in electronic form, can you send an email to [info@brooklyncommunity.org.au](mailto:info@brooklyncommunity.org.au), and we will add you to our electronic mailing list.

*Robert Arnold Secretary: Brooklyn Community Association Editor: BCA Gateway Newsletter  
[info@brooklyncommunity.org.au](mailto:info@brooklyncommunity.org.au)*

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## Riverfront Real Estate News

### *The Newest Agent in Town!*

Hi! I'm Coen, and new to the Riverfront Real Estate team here in beautiful Brooklyn. I come from a long line of river locals, and my entire family currently work and reside here in Brooklyn. You may have had my father, Dave from BTS Electrical, doing some work on your home, or perhaps my mum Vanessa and my sister Casey serving you coffee down at Homer's Kitchen. If I haven't met you yet, I would love to! I am currently doing some introductions in the area to familiarize myself, so please feel free to stop me for a chat about literally anything (current hot topics are Real Estate and Fishing).

*Best regards, Coen Moncelet*  
*Contacts: 02 9985 7611 or 0422 940 753*



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## GOT THE BAYOU BLUES INSTEAD

Left behind the Blues of the City, got the Bayou Blues instead  
No more heavy fumes from the traffic, but the Mangrove swamp smells dead  
Left behind the Blues of the City, got the Bayou Blues instead

No more poseurs in the coffee bars, just some losers casting lines  
From far too many fish in the sea, to one or two bites at times  
Left behind the Blues of the City, got the Bayou Blues instead

From heavy reconstruction sites, to rotting timber shacks  
From packed out public transport, to rusting goods rail tracks  
Left behind the Blues of the City, got the Bayou Blues instead

No more traffic jams for hours, to less work, more unemployed  
No apartments filled like sardine cans, but some strange people to avoid  
Left behind the Blues of the City, got the Bayou Blues instead

From a deafening cacophony, to a silence that is weird  
From the screams of neighbours arguing, to those in pain but never heard  
Left behind the Blues of the City, got the Bayou Blues instead

No more queues for cheaper petrol, to less fuel to be found  
From jostling at the checkout, to shops closing all around  
Left behind the Blues of the City, got the Bayou Blues instead

The SUVs at School pick-up, are replaced by ageing Utes  
City School kids ride in luxury, Bayou wear out their boots  
Left behind the Blues of the City, got the Bayou Blues instead

Maybe I'll go back to the City, maybe I will stay right here  
I'm damned if I do and damned if I don't, I'm just not sure I care  
Left behind the Blues of the City, got the Bayou Blues instead

*©Chris Martin Murphy Brooklyn*  
*cjmm43@gmail.com*

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 print the Gateway newsletter and Gary Robertson, Brooklyn's postie and musician, who kindly delivers 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/>

## Brooklyn's Corner Cafe *now open*

Brooklyn welcomes Lucinda Haggart, new owner of the Brooklyn's Corner café, across from the Anglers Rest pub and the Health Centre. Lucinda is from a long-standing Brooklyn family, and was formerly manager at the Toby's Estate café in Barangaroo. Lucinda says that she "always wanted to run this shop", and has great plans to upgrade the layout.

Brooklyn's Corner café serves Toby's Estate coffee to drink-in or take-away. Lucinda is a self-taught baker, and the café's specialities include:

- Quality Coffee and fine food made on site
- Home-made tarts and cakes, friands and cupcakes
- Pastries and danishes
- Cakes to order, including gluten-free

Brooklyn's Corner is open:

- Tuesday to Friday from 7am to 2pm
- Saturday and Sunday from 7am to 3pm
- Closed Mondays



Contact Lucinda on 0420 274 347 or [lhaggart@outlook.com.au](mailto:lhaggart@outlook.com.au)

## EastCastle

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EastCastle Property Pty. Ltd.  
ACN 600 023 041

- Hi. I'm Liz, your local property professional. If you don't know me, I come with many years experience not only in this complex and sometimes vexing industry, but in our unique and diverse area.
- The local buzz right now is that some prices appear to be skyrocketing and that properties are selling very quickly. What someone is willing to pay for a property all comes down to the following:
  - Supply -v- Demand
  - Competitive Bidding
- External Influences such as the media and finance availability, to name a few.
- I have widespread experience in not only residential sales, having broken many sales records in my 25+ years servicing my community, but I also manage several investment portfolios through Sydney metro & the lower Central Coast - both residential & commercial. If you are after some no obligation professional advice, give me a call - I love helping people. If you are thinking of changing agents, I can assure you that you will receive superior knowledge, expertise and attention to detail. You won't be disappointed.

David Easton 0439 407 212  
[david@eastcastle.com.au](mailto:david@eastcastle.com.au)  
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Liz Surrent 0420 759 004  
[liz@eastcastle.com.au](mailto:liz@eastcastle.com.au)  
Licenced Agent #303170



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

## Hawkesbury River Home Builders

☎ **9985 1525**



✉ [ryan@HRHB.com.au](mailto:ryan@HRHB.com.au)

[HawkesburyRiverHomeBuilders.com.au](http://HawkesburyRiverHomeBuilders.com.au)

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