

Gateway

Newsletter of the Brooklyn Community Association, Inc

July 2009

Brooklyn Police Station Gone Forever

The Brooklyn Police Station has been at the heart of this town for over a century. Many locals knew and even were related to the occupants of this iconic building and the sense of security that came from knowing that the law was in residence in Brooklyn was important to such an isolated community. These time have



long passed and now we enter into a new way of doing things — law enforcement available but just be prepared for the delayed that accompanies the tyranny of distance. The powers that be in State government have executed the sale of a surplus asset and there was never any recourse for the community, just a false hope that reason might prevail. Silly of us, really. State government needs money and we had a bit of land they could sell.

Brooklyn is at least 20 minutes from Gosford or Hornsby police services and locals, fishermen, businesses and tourist now face an uncertain future. What we have lost with the building sale is the Eagle phone, the phone that was located on the front of the police station used to contact police directly in times of trouble. It is particularly unfortunate that the Eagle phone is gone for our tourist, overseas guests and elderly visitors who arrive for a pleasant day in Brooklyn. Many of these people do not have mobile phones. If you have a policing problem you will need to use your own phone to call 000 for help and hopefully it will come — eventually. If you don't have a phone, that's too bad. Most of us will get by but for others, particularly those encountering trouble at night when businesses are closed, our train station is unmanned, the two buses into and out of Brooklyn are long gone and the call boxes on the freeway are kilometres away - these people face a real dilemma.

Help is NOT at hand. In fact, it is probably at least a half hour away at best so these people better hope that they can find a resident willing to help them contact the police and that the problem will just sit there without getting worse until the police arrive. Let's hope Brooklyn experiences a crime free, trouble free and natural disaster free future, on land and on the water, because we are now without the public contact point with police that was available to us.

We hope that we will be able to retain the excellent services of "our" policemen, LSC Mark Formston and his colleague in Berowra, LSC Kevin Comber. They are essential to our community but, as the scheduled appointment with the Minister of Police, Tony Kelley was cancelled because there was nothing he wanted to hear from representatives of the residents of Brooklyn, we can be sure that knowing the problems this community faces are of no concern to this State government.

We welcome the police who will be attending our AGM so we can hear first hand how future police services will be delivered in Brooklyn. What's done is done. We have to look forward with cold clear eyes rather than dwell on the mistake the sale of our police station represents to us.

**Brooklyn Community Association - Upcoming Annual General Meeting
on Saturday, August 1st, 10am, the Senior's Hall, Dangar Rd, Brooklyn
All are invited to attend.**

Brooklyn Electricity - Improvement on the Horizon

Bob Browne of the BCA has been in touch with Energy Australia about the problems many have experienced with our electrical supply, particularly people who live and work at the “town end” of Brooklyn. The following comments have come back to us from **Allan Hopkins, Regional Manager Sydney North, Management, EnergyAustralia.**

“Our measurements show that:

- the volts supplied to Brooklyn substations are within the favourable range for the vast majority of the time
- the volts have rarely strayed outside of the favourable range, but when they do it is only by a couple of volts and this is to be expected for a remote suburb such as Brooklyn.
- if anything, the volts tend to be closer to the upper limit of the preferred range in Brooklyn.

We are, however, planning to replace the 11,000 volt voltage regulator at Berowra that supplies Brooklyn. This new unit will be more reliable than the one it replaces, which failed earlier this year causing the volts to go outside of our preferred range for approximately 1 week until the unit could be repaired. This project is, however, expected to take around 1 - 2 years to complete.

Customers can still have problems at the local level. If customers have a recent problem they should contact Jonathan Hopson (Planning Manager) via email (jhopson@energy.com.au) or 9477 8282.”

Bendigo Bank
Berowra and District Community Branch
Phone 9456 2265
Or call in at Turner Road, Berowra
For all your banking needs

ColorDiction
unique home décor & lifestyle essentials
Mariela Khoury, interior designer
shop 1, 1 bridge st, brooklyn
9985 8311 or 0412 272 140
mariela@colordiction.com.au; www.colordiction.com.au
open mon, wed, 11-6:00pm
thurs, fri, sat, sun: 10:00 - 6:00pm

Brooklyn Meeting Room Available Soon

At long last Brooklyn will again have a public facility that can be used by anyone in the community as Hornsby Council takes over the running of the meeting room from the Health Centre. Council will soon begin the building of an amenities block and store room attached to the existing room at the back of the Brooklyn Health Centre with an adjacent car park for Health Centre staff. Among the changes will be improved storage within the meeting room, new carpeting, upgrading the kitchen facilities, air conditioning and safety and fire codes compliance.

The next step for Council will be the publication of notices calling for community members to join the Advisory Committee set up under the auspices of Council’s Community Services to work with Council on the running of the meeting room. As the community has been without such a facility for many years it may take a while for people to realise that there will now be a place available for hire for birthday parties, social gatherings, meetings for various groups and all the other uses that are simply accepted to occur in other communities where publicly available facilities have long existed.

This is not our community hall, a facility we are hoping will eventually be built at Salt Pan Reserve, near the fire station, along with our community garden. In the meantime at least we will have somewhere to get inside, away from the weather, for gatherings of all kinds. The bookings for the meeting room will be handled by Community Services as part of the Shire wide booking service. Bookings can be made during business hours with payment of the hire fee arranged through Council, just like all the other communities in Hornsby. It is likely that a meeting room key will be available within Brooklyn so that hirers can hire the room over the phone but pick up the key for access within Brooklyn.

For more information or to express your interest in joining the Meeting Room Advisory Committee, phone Samantha Colbert, Coordinator Community & Cultural Facilities, Hornsby Council, 9847 6548.

Brooklyn Health Centre Management Advisory Committee Election and AGM on August 26th, 10am Health Centre

The Health Centre is a big asset to the residents on both sides of the river and the upcoming AGM will be the time when people who care about the quality and variety of services provided by the Centre have a chance to become involved in the decision making process. Nominating for the Management Advisory Committee, the MAC, is open to anyone in the area, Brooklyn or Mooney, and is simple to do.

Just notify the Health Centre of your interest at least seven days prior to the AGM and come to the meeting. The MAC liaises with and makes recommendations to the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Health Services and the GP practice regarding the services, facilities and equipment that are needed to make things run better for residents using the Health Centre. It is both challenging and interesting.

This year the AGM will be held on Wednesday, August 26th at 10am at the Health Centre. Anyone from the area is invited to attend and hopefully there will be community members that will see joining the MAC as a good way to become involved in this important community health service.

To find out more about the Health Centre and the role of the MAC group, visit the Centre and talk to Jane or the Jennifer or phone 9985 7717.



**Peter Coad - Team Leader,
Estuary Management ,
Hornsby Shire Council**

BROOKLYN LIQUOR & CONVENIENCE STORE

Paul Webber
Licensee

Hawkesbury River Marina

Phone 9985 7906

Fax 9985 7992

Email brooklynliquor@kisntel.com.au

One of the most interesting speakers to addressed a BCA meeting in the past was Peter Coad, a passionate supporter of the Hawkesbury River and great believer that Council and the community working together can preserve and improve our waterway. Keeping in touch with what's going on, Peter sent the BCA the following information about a couple of recent projects that maybe of interest.

Derelict boats- Council is currently seeking contractors to remove the six main derelict boats from Sandbrook Inlet and they should be removed by Christmas (pending tide and technical constraints).

Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee- has been established and will convene for its first meeting on August 27th.

Rubbish removal- Teams of 4 from corrective services have been removing rubbish from the intertidal areas in the areas between Kangaroo point through to Seymours Creek, Parsley Bay, and Brooklyn Oval.

Living on the edge- We are currently in process of designing a brochure on ways riverside residents can improve their local environment, I will send you a copy for comment when available.

Bush regeneration- Bush regeneration activities have been completed around Brooklyn, Singleton Road and Wisemans ferry namely within tributaries in close proximity to the estuary.

Education- The estuary community day at Fenwick's Marina (thanks to Andrew for his support) and cruises for World Migratory Bird Day (a United Nations initiative) were undertaken in May and were well supported by the community.

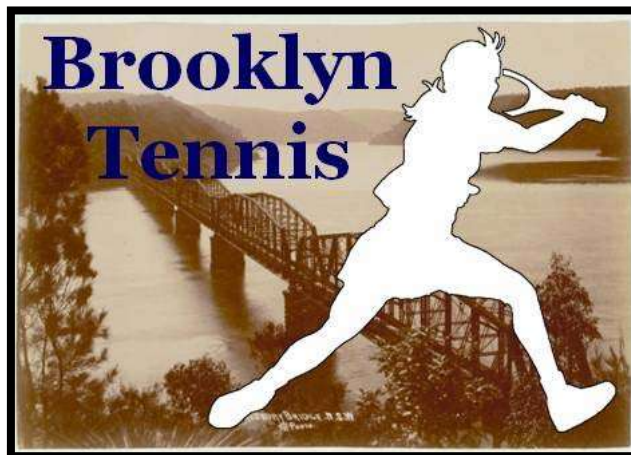
On site disposal kits- In conjunction with Broken Bay Oysters we have delivered information kits to riverside residents, to provide information on how best to dispose of sewage on-site with the aim of improving water quality and protecting the priority oyster harvest areas.

Spring is almost here and the longer days will be great. So why not join the Brooklyn Tennis Group. Social and non-playing members are as welcome as the players out for a hit and giggle. Skilled players too can meet and play with like minded souls. Come along for any reason. Balls will be provided. Bring snacks. Hope you can make it. Bring some friends too.

Tennis starts at 3pm on the following dates:

- Sunday 2nd August
- Sunday 16th August
- Sunday 30th August
- Sunday 13th September

Please email: Robert Arnold on ararnold@iinet.net.au to confirm your attendance.



Accolades for River Businesses

Fenwick's Marina was voted the best marina of its size in Australia. Dolphin Boatshed celebrated 60 years in business on the river. Who doesn't know that Brooklyn has the best of all worlds... Well done.

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New Walkway and Floating Pontoon at Kangaroo Point

Hornsby Council has added a new approach to the water for all users of Kangaroo Point. No longer limited to the fixed dock which made boarding boats a real challenge depending on the tides and weather, the new floating pontoon and easy walkway will make getting on and off boats a simple matter for all.

BCA Membership Renewal

Annual subscription of \$5 per household are due for 2009. Payment can be posted to the Secretary at PO Box 239, Brooklyn 2083, paid at a BCA meeting or direct deposited to BSB 633 000, account 129357182. Include your full name in the payment details. Treasurer Robert Arnold, ararnold@iinet.net.au, 0418 404 902, can email an application form to new members to fill out and return to him or he will put one in your letter box.

*Written by Mathilde Kearny-Kibble on behalf of the Brooklyn Community Association Inc Committee
Cindy Corkery, Secretary, Brooklyn Community Association Inc, PO Box 239, BROOKLYN NSW 2083*